

Finding courage in their convictions
Winners of Colin Higgins Foundation's
'Courage Awards' accept prizes in SF.

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Quietly breaking taboos
Black Coalition on AIDS
reaches out to churches.

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SFILGFF at 25
Lesbian & Gay Film Fest
begins its 11-day run.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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RuPaul rocks San Jose Pride

Diva RuPaul struts her stuff before thousands of admiring fans Sunday, June 10 at the 26th annual San Jose Pride festival. The two-day event included entertainment and activities that will be the Pride Parade.

Jane Philomeno, Cleland

DP bill clears Assembly despite efforts by anti-gay organization

by David Fraser

Despite a vociferous effort by an anti-gay group, the California Assembly has passed a bill that would enhance protections for domestic partners, raising the hopes of LGBT couples seeking equality.

By a vote of 43-29, legislators on June 6 passed AB25, authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). The bill now goes to the state Senate.

Migden, who authored the 1999 domestic partners law, said, "This bill provides basic protections. Current law allows families to obtain health insurance for their dependents, pass on property, and defend their economic rights in court."

"Lesbian and gay families need these protections, too. These are simple, commonplace rights, not special rights."

If enacted, AB25 would include the ability to:

- Seek compensation for loss of economic or emotional support;
- Inherit property without a will, or administer an estate;
- Make medical decisions in a hospital and act as a conservator;
- Relocate with a domestic partner without



Governor Gray Davis

losing unemployment benefits;

- Use sick leave to care for a family member;
- Extend employer-based health coverage to domestic partners of small businesses, and cover dependents without extra taxes.

Roger Salazar, a spokesman for Governor Gray Davis, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Davis is "hoping to accomplish" expanded DP legislation during this legislative session, which ends Sep-

tember 14.

"The governor has said that his general bias on domestic partner legislation is reflected" in a June 8 interview published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Salazar added. Davis told the newspaper he would sign into law a bill granting expanded rights to domestic partners on the issues of employment and family leave, but he did not pledge to sign the Migden bill.

Salazar said that decision would come once the final version of AB25 arrives on the governor's desk.

CAPE hope

The bill was strongly supported by the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, a nonprofit LGBT advocacy and lobbying group. Its Web site is www.calcape.org.

Executive Director Jean Harris and her colleague Eric Astacaan told the *B.A.R.* that they were optimistic about the bill's progress, but did not want to take it for granted.

"The provisions currently in the bill are what Carole Migden calls substantive," said Astacaan. "They are basic LGBT protections, fundamental issues."

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Put some work into your Pride

Volunteers needed for upcoming events by Katie Szymanski

For the thousands of LGBT visitors who descend upon San Francisco each June, it's the combination of various details that make the city something to write home about, from the rainbow flags on every lamp post along Market Street to the overlap of the gay and lesbian film fest, Dyke March, and titillating "Pink Saturday." Here at home the locals actually have to think about these displays, whether they're involved in planning them or they simply notice that the streets suddenly look more festive. It takes effort and coordination to make San Francisco's Pride month extraordinary, and organizers of official and loose-knit gatherings alike still need volunteers to make it all come together.



The tarps for the pink triangle were painted last month; now volunteers are needed for the June 23 installation.

Remembrance

It may look dainty from the bottom of the hill, but the annual pink triangle that overlooks the city and commemorates gay victims of the Holocaust is actually made up of 152 bright pink tarps held in place by several thousand 12 inch long metal stakes and washers 2 inches in diameter.

Translation: "We need people," according to pink triangle organizer Patrick Carney. "It takes a good 50 or more people and four hours or so to put it up. It's real work."

Grueling, yet satisfying. When else can the fruits of

your labor grace the hillside for all to see and appreciate?

The triangle project needs volunteers to meet on Twin Peaks

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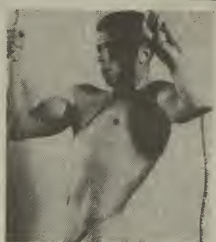
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Demonstrators booted from GLAAD soiree

by Naphtali Offen

A trio of elegantly dressed women representing the Coalition of Lavender-Americans on Smoking and Health was escorted off the premises of the Westin St. Francis while leafletting the attendees of GLAAD's black-tie 12th annual awards banquet last Saturday, June 9.

The informational flier asked GLAAD supporters to let the organization know if they preferred that GLAAD not accept tobacco sponsorship as they had for this and other similar events. The flier began with a reprint of a letter that was published in the June 7 B.A.R. in which this writer raised the question of the advisability of tobacco sponsorship.

"Should our national organizations be accepting financial support from the tobacco industry?" the flier asked. "Should they be helping to promote smoking at LGBT events? We think not. What do you think? Please contact GLAAD."

As a sponsor of the event, tobacco giant Brown and Williamson was given GLAAD's blessing to provide a smoking lounge and give away free samples of their Lucky Strike brand.

Early in the evening, GLAAD Development Director Julie Anderson confronted the leafletters. According to demonstrator Catherine Saiki, "She angrily shoved the flier back in my hand and asked me if she, a non-smoker, should be subject to all the 'icky smokers' on the sidewalk when she went outside. She claimed that, in fact, GLAAD was doing everyone a service by isolating them in an upstairs room away from those who choose not to smoke."



Reggie Dickerson offers an ashtray as part of his dance in the Lucky Strike Smoking Lounge during the GLAAD Media Awards. At left, a poster that resembles the work of the late Keith Haring promoted cigarettes.

"Eventually, we were asked to leave and, literally, escorted to the door. I left with a heavy heart. It's upsetting that an organization that I hold in such high esteem would have taken the position that they did — not only accepting funding from the tobacco industry and promoting smoking, but angrily confronting us and having us escorted from the building. We were only trying to raise a legitimate issue with their supporters."

GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry denied that GLAAD was responsible for the removal of the women. According to coalition spokesman Bob Gordon, Garry assured him that she had given explicit instructions not to interfere with the rights of the demonstrators to express their opinions.

Gordon added, "She even said she appreciated the polite demeanor with which the women

conducted themselves, often giving directions to the attendees."

Phone calls to the Westin St. Francis seeking to clarify what actually happened were not returned.

GLAAD News Media Director Cathy Renna attempted to mediate after the women were thrown out. Gordon, who attended the \$200-a-head event as a supporter of GLAAD, asked her if GLAAD had responded to the revelation that RJ Reynolds called their marketing plan for gay men in the Castro "Project Scum." According to Gordon, Renna responded that GLAAD reacts to defamation from the media and not from private industry.

After the awards ceremony, Gordon spoke with Garry who assured him that the GLAAD board would be open to discussing GLAAD's policy regarding future tobacco sponsorship. ▼

Plan ahead for NCLR's 'Liberty Weekend'

by Katie Szymanski

Over 2,000 people are expected to attend the 24th anniversary celebration of San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights during the weekend of June 29-July 1.

The celebration of the nation's premier lesbian legal center includes a kickoff reception on June 29 at the Castro's Mecca Restaurant; boating on the bay, and other outdoor activities on June 30; and a Sunday brunch at Pilaf's on July 1. But the weekend is anchored by the event for which NCLR is most known: the "Gala Dinner Dance," an annual benefit and major fundraiser, held this year on Sat-

urday, June 30 at the Moscone Center Ballroom.

Emceed by famed lesbian comedian Kate Clinton, the dinner dance will honor members of the community who have made a difference in the struggle for lesbian rights. Honorees include Sally Gearhart, a leader in the fight against the homophobic Briggs Initiative in 1978. Gearhart will receive the "Founders Award" for a lifetime of activism. Other recipients are Nadine Smith, who will receive the "Community Commitment Award" for her work as executive director of Equality Florida; and Sharon Smith, the surviving partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, who will receive the "Justice Award" for challeng-

ing California's wrongful death law.

Anniversary dinner tickets start at \$175 and can be purchased through NCLR by calling (415) 392-6257. All proceeds benefit NCLR, the nation's only legal resource center with a primary commitment to advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and their families through litigation, public policy advocacy, free legal advice and counseling, and public education. NCLR legal cases have spanned the country, tackling issues like child custody, domestic partnership, immigration for same-sex couples, and workplace equality. For more information on NCLR's "Liberty Weekend," visit www.nclrights.org. ▼

Sacramento, Monterey celebrate Pride Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

With just 10 days until San Francisco's 31st annual Pride Parade and celebration, the LGBT communities in two other California cities gear up for their Pride events this weekend.

To the north of the Bay Area, Sacramento will celebrate lesbian and gay Pride in the capital city's historic Southside Park this Satur-

day, June 16. Down south, in Monterey, Pride of Monterey announced that its festival also takes place this Saturday.

More low-key than San Francisco or Los Angeles Pride weekends, Sacramento's festival, which starts at 10 a.m., may just be the perfect warm-up for San Francisco's raucous affair. Nonstop entertainment on three stages and many exhibitors combine for a commemoration of Stonewall not unlike a county fair, according to

organizers.

Special events include the "pets in drag" contest, the leather alley, sports park, beer garden, and plenty of food vendors. Other events include motorcycle, square dancing, and karaoke contests. Sacramento's Lambda Freedom Fair takes place at Southside Park, 6th and U streets, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Admission is \$6. For information and directions, www.lambda-sacramento.com.

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'Geezer' clarified in publicity for party

by David Fraser

A minor controversy is smoldering over a word used to describe the gay, bi, or trans men aged 40 and over invited to the Geezers' Ball at the Julia Morgan Ballroom this Monday, June 18.

The Stop AIDS Project, the main sponsor of the event, has issued a statement to clarify its use of the word "geezer" in publicity for the dance, including an advertisement in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Stop AIDS Project officials said they had received several calls from community members expressing concern.

"While some have supported our choosing this name," wrote Paul Miller and Carlton Smith, "others feel disappointed and angry because they believe that the word geezer is being used to diminish the value of older men in the lesbian, gay, bi, transgender community."

"This, in fact, is the exact opposite of our intention. As those who attend will discover, the Geezers' Ball is actually a celebration of men 40 and older who have lived through the AIDS epidemic as both long-term survivors and caregivers."

"A person who epitomizes this idea and more is Harry Hay, the political activist who helped start the Mattachine Society half a century ago, which was one of the

forerunners of the modern lesbian and gay movement.

"Mr. Hay will be at the Geezers' Ball to receive a special award from the planners of the event for his contribution to the struggle for lesbian and gay rights."

In your prime?

The ball is an "In Your Prime" event of Stop AIDS Project, in conjunction with Midlife Gay Men of Most Holy Redeemer-AIDS Support Group, G-40 Plus Club, and New Leaf Outreach to Seniors (formerly Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders).

Valerie Hayden, co-director of New Leaf Outreach to Seniors and director of its women's programs, told the B.A.R. that she had not been part of the event planning but had told Miller she felt the term would be offensive to some seniors.

"I have some concerns; there were people who said, 'We don't like this name.' Others said, 'Who cares?'" Hayden added.

Steven Gibson, Stop AIDS Project's program director, said he didn't generally hear young men using the term, but that some older men used it in "self-effacing humor."

"Maybe some people thought young guys were organizing the ball, and maybe they were poking fun at older men," Gibson said, adding that the planners were over 40.

Miller, Stop AIDS Project's workshops and forums develop-

ment manager, argued that choosing "geezers" was a deliberate effort to encourage debate over age issues in the gay community.

"In my head, geezer was a dirty old man, wheezy, like grandpa," said Miller, who is nearing 50. "The whole idea was to embrace the term. It's kind of like younger people using 'queer.'"

The use of "queer" on a banner at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, and the Pride theme of "Queerific" have sparked public debate in the Bay Area recently.

"Geezer" is not designed to put us in a negative light. We'd like to show younger generations of men there is successful aging. It's encouraging younger men to get into major conversations. This has a lot to do with the middle-aged generation being decimated by AIDS. We hoped this would be a natural [generational] bridge," Miller said.

Using the term, Miller added, "creates a buzz. If we had used 'Gold and Silver,' would that have drawn attention?"

"That was the whole point. Younger people do look at us as over the hill, trolls - it's the 5-second [glance]. We aim to show older men are still vital, alive. We want younger people to see we're still there, not invisible."

Publicity for the ball includes a drawing of two men dancing happily. One has white hair and saddle shoes; the other is balding. ▽

Hearing on Hera Friday

by Ed Walsh

The fate of Hera, one of the two dogs involved in the deadly January 26 attack on Diane Whipple, will be taken up at a hearing this Friday, June 15.

San Francisco Animal Care and Control and the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are strongly urging the dog be euthanized, calling its current treatment cruel. Since the attack, Hera has been in the custody of Animal Care and Control and has been kept in a small pen without being allowed to take walks. Bane, the male dog who instigated the attack, was destroyed just after the incident.

The SPCA's animal behavior expert, Jean Donaldson, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she has lobbied prosecutors without success to let Hera be euthanized.



Hera in isolation

Donaldson has observed Hera and said that it would serve no purpose to keep her alive because the behavior she now exhibits is the result of being kept in isolation for several months. Donaldson added

that a videotape was made of Hera after the attack and that would be far more indicative of her behavior at the time of the attack.

Prosecutors say that while they are concerned about Hera being kept in cruel conditions, they are more concerned that the defense could use Hera's destruction as grounds to help their case.

"If Hera is put to sleep and then the defense accuses us of destroying exculpatory evidence, we could blow the whole case behind that," San Francisco District Attorney spokesman, Fred Gardner, told the B.A.R. "So we're kind of in a tough bind. We're hoping that Judge Warren will order the defense to conduct whatever tests they deem necessary and then we can do what Animal Care and Control wants to do, that is to put the dog out of its isolated existence."

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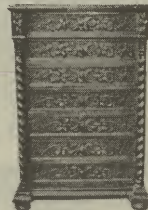
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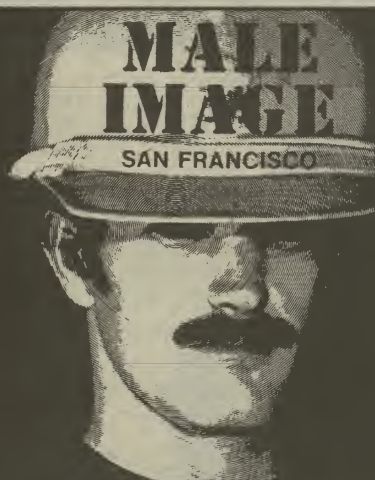
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Club Townsend manager loses round in court

by Ed Walsh

Club Townsend's events manager and part-owner, Audrey Joseph, lost a round in court last week when a judge ruled that a lawyer suing the club for wrongful death can add Joseph to his lawsuit as a defendant, potentially putting her personal assets as well as her corporation's assets in jeopardy. The judge also allowed the case to proceed on the plaintiff's claims of fraud and deceit against Joseph, potentially opening her up to unlimited punitive damages.

The club is being sued by Parmalee Goring, the mother of Jeffrey Goring, a 35-year-old San Jose man who collapsed and died of a heart attack in the club's Saturday night Club Universe venue on February 13, 2000. The complaint alleges there was a life-threatening delay of 15 minutes from the time Goring collapsed until 911 was called. The suit claims the club delayed in calling for an ambulance out of concern that calling 911 too often could jeopardize its license. Besides Joseph and the Token Diva Corporation which owns the club, the suit names as defendants former club manager Jon Morris and the 183 Townsend Corporation which owned building at the time of Goring's death.

Joseph's lawyer, Kate Dyer, declined to comment on the details of the suit's allegations but told the *Bay Area Reporter* that last week's ruling only means that a judge granted the right to argue

that Joseph should be held personally liable for damages. Dyer stressed that the determination over whether she can be held liable has yet to be decided.

Joseph herself has declined to talk with the B.A.R., other than to say last week that she was not in the club at the time of the incident.

Joseph owns 80 percent of the stock in the Token Diva Corporation. That stock is currently being held in a trust. On May 31, Joseph submitted an application with the state Alcoholic Beverage Control to transfer the stock from the trust back to her direct control. ABC is investigating that request in light of Joseph's criminal background.

Joseph set up the trust in January 1997, just nine months before she agreed to a plea bargain with federal prosecutors over her involvement in a money laundering scheme. According to federal court documents, Joseph's attorney claimed she couldn't afford a fine and instead she was ordered to pay just over \$20,000 in restitution which she was allowed to pay off by holding benefits at the club. She avoided a prison sentence and was put on five years probation. Joseph's lawyer got a judge to declare an early end to probation in 1999 because of Joseph's exemplary behavior.

Joseph applied to transfer the stock back from the trust just two weeks after Goodfellow filed notice that he intended to ask a judge to allow him to add Joseph as a defendant. Goodfellow declined to comment on the timing of the

stock transfer request and whether he is concerned that she may be trying to shield her assets from an unfavorable judgment in his suit.

Although the state is investigating Joseph's background, San Francisco Police say they are not.

Joseph was required to disclose her prior conviction for dealing cocaine in 1975 when she first applied for a police permit to operate her club in 1993. The B.A.R. obtained a copy of that permit which remains on file at San Francisco Police headquarters. The section that asked applicants to list criminal convictions was left blank.

When Joseph reapplied for the same permit in 1994 after her business partner died, "possession of illegal substance" was listed. According to federal court records, the actual charge was "possession with intent to distribute cocaine," a significantly greater charge than simply possessing an illegal substance. No explanation was mentioned in the club's file to explain the obvious discrepancies in the two applications or whether anything was ever done to verify the information.

Although the application was submitted under a penalty of perjury, Joseph may be off the hook for perjury charges because the applications were not signed by her, but by her business partners. Rose Meyer, who oversees the permitting process for the San Francisco Police Department told the B.A.R. that a prior felony conviction wouldn't necessarily disqualify an applicant from obtaining a

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Britt brings his own brand of politics to race

by Katie Szymanski

"I'm really having fun," are the first words out of Harry Britt's mouth.

The former supervisor who replaced the late Harvey Milk and continued the lefty tradition of politics in San Francisco for three more terms is speaking of his recent decision to run for the 13th District Assembly seat after spending almost a decade away from politics. The New College professor describes his entry as a mixture of chance and idealism, but a decision that was not made lightly.

"George Bush's entrance on the scene, the failure of California leadership to respond to the energy crisis, and the shift in power in local politics are indicative of great dangers and great opportunities," Britt told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I teach my students they should try to do great things with their lives. So when Tom Ammiano called me and said people were talking about this it didn't seem responsible to just say no. I've talked with community leaders and there is a sense that I have something to give that is needed here. But I took my time announcing; I wanted to make sure we could balance the financial advantage of the other candidate and that this election was



Candidate Harry Britt

winnable. I'm not doing this for a hobby. I would not be in this race unless I felt strongly it was mine to lose."

The other candidate of which Britt speaks, of course, is Supervisor Mark Leno. Fresh off a hard-fought victory for his current seat, the supe has thrown his hat into the ring for the state job, as many expected he would.

What was unexpected, however, was how Britt's entrance would garner some surprise support. Assemblywoman Carole Migden, whose seat is sought by Leno and Britt, immediately backed Britt, throwing a wrench into the as-

sumption that this would be a race of the "Ammiano versus the Mayor Brown camps." Migden replaced Brown in the Assembly and backed him over Ammiano during the mayoral race of 1999. Leno has the strong support of many San Francisco Democrats, support that usually includes a list of guaranteed endorsements and the ever-important campaign funds. But with Migden's move to support Britt, say political analysts, anything is possible, including a division of the typical "Brown" and "Ammiano" crowds.

For Britt, however, the race is not about any of these labels.

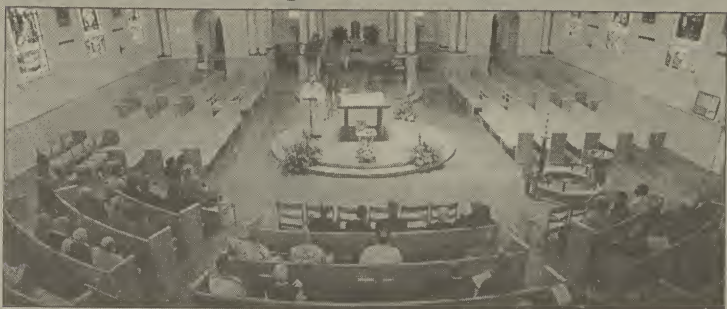
"I like Mark Leno," he said. "He gave me \$1,000 when I ran for Congress. But people came to me and said, 'We think you can do the job better.' Mark is a likable young man recently elected to a board position and I hope he does well there. I believe I can do a more effective job at the state level or I wouldn't be running."

Britt does acknowledge, though, that he believes the public perception of Leno as a strong ally of Brown's - despite Leno's shift away from mayoral loyalty that started last year - is baggage that he himself does not carry.

"This district needs representation that will define issues clearly and strongly, and be able to stand up against money interests. I have

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Remembering a friend



The life of longtime gay community worker Tom Vindeed, who died May 14 at the age of 62, was celebrated by family and friends Saturday, June 9 during a memorial service at Most Holy Redeemer Church in San Francisco. Mr. Vindeed served on the board of the Godfather Service Fund, contributed to numerous charitable organizations, and helped the once-struggling Gay Softball League return to prominence.

Supes enact limits on TICs, reaping praise and whiff of lawsuits

by David Fraser

Passage of fresh housing legislation by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Monday, June 11 is drawing qualified praise from tenant advocates and outrage from opponents.

The bill would regulate the controversial practice of tenancies-in-common, in which people band together to buy housing, but which often results in tenant evictions.

An elated Robert Haaland, who has been in the forefront of the debate over how to meet tenants' needs, said passage of the amended ordinance, written by Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, would probably survive any veto by Mayor Willie Brown.

"Officially, the mayor has not taken a position," Haaland, with the city's Housing Rights Committee, told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, June 12. "But with an 8 to 3 vote, it's probably veto-proof."

McGoldrick could not be reached for comment by press time.

Originally he had offered a variation of a proposed ordinance by Supervisor Chris Daly that would limit Ellis Act evictions but increase the numbers of conversions of TICs into condos. McGoldrick's bill expanded the conversions from 200 to 400 annually.

In addition to McGoldrick, Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Matt Gonzalez, Mark Leno, Sophie Maxwell, Aaron Peskin, and Gerardo Sandoval voted for

the bill. Voting against it were Supervisors Tony Hall, Gavin Newsom, and Leland Yee.

The bill that passed was changed considerably from McGoldrick's compromise proposal.

One key difference is that owners of all TICs formed before July 15, 2001 could automatically convert their units to condos.

"This amendment is huge," Haaland said. "It could potentially apply to 2,000 to 4,000 units."

Opponents' view

Opponents of controls on TICs have argued that the process gives people who otherwise could not afford to buy a San Francisco home a chance to purchase a unit.

Previously almost unregulated,

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Conference addresses preservation of gay sites

by Katie Szymanski

Just when you thought that Pride week was all commercialism without context comes the gay preservation conference, "Looking Back and Forward: Significant Places of the GLBT Community," taking place June 21 and 22 in San Francisco.

Based on the concept that our significant places tell an important story, the conference will focus on interpreting and documenting historical sites of the GLBT community; highlighting preservation projects like Harvey Milk's former camera shop; hearing from queer historians; and identifying underground culture. Presentations and walking tours will be given, and featured speakers include Susan Stryker of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, author Will Fellows, national consultant William Coburn, and others who focus on community preservation.

The conference kicks off on Thursday, June 21 with a plenary

session addressing "The Evolution of the GLBT Community and Place," and the preservation movement and its relationship to the national GLBT community. Next, a session will give an overview of neighborhoods and GLBT projects as described by historians from particular regions. A lunch time talk will unveil current research on San Francisco's queer geography, which is followed by a session on the GLBT role in historic interiors. A tour of the Civic Center area and Hayes Valley District will walk participants through the assassination of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk as well as visit the new emerging gay communities. The day wraps up with a gala reception at the hip Bucheon Gallery, 540 Hayes Street near Laguna and Octavia. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and is open to attendees and the public.

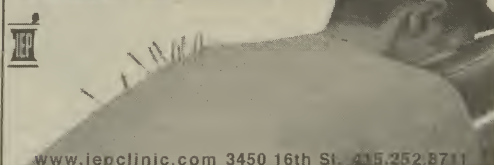
On Friday, June 22, the conference picks up with a session on strategies to save these historic GLBT sites, followed by a presentation on San Francisco's Tenderloin, Polk, and SOMA, and an

overview of places of GLBT spirituality. The lunch time discussion is entitled, "Gay Men as Keepers of Culture." The walking tour that follows will include the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library, as well as significant places of the transgendered community throughout the Tenderloin district. The conference concludes with a discussion of specific national and local activities and tasks ahead. A TGIF party with tours of the nearby Fallon Building will take place at Piaf's, 1686 Market Street at Gough.

"Looking Back and Forward" is sponsored by Friends of 1800 Market, the group that was originally formed to save the historic Fallon Building during construction of the LGBT Community Center. It will take place, for the most part, at the Hotel Bijou, 111 Mason Street. Registration is \$100 and includes all sessions, tours, lunch, receptions, and other activities. Space is limited; call (415) 364-1626 or visit www.friendsof1800.org for more information. ▼

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Is proposed boycott good idea?

It seems to us that the Human Rights Campaign is putting the cart before the horse with its announcement this week for a community boycott of Exxon Mobil Corporation because of the company's failure to expand non-discrimination policies. Mobil, which had that policy along with domestic partner benefits, was bought by Exxon, which did not. To be successful, a boycott must have tremendous support at the local level, and right now, at least, that doesn't appear to be the case. Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director, readily admitted as much Tuesday in a conference call with reporters when she said that they were announcing the boycott first, and then attempting to get public support later.

A spokesman at Exxon Mobil pointed out that the company maintained a policy on discrimination and harassment that included sexual orientation; the HRC boycott seems designed solely to get the company to include gays and lesbians in its equal employment opportunity statement.

The last successful boycott of a company by the LGBT community was the one initiated against United Airlines a few years ago. That boycott, which was started in San Francisco by Equal Benefits Advocates, had a goal: to get United to comply with the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance. After years of demonstrations at United ticket counters and a successful campaign that involved gay and lesbian employees of United, the airline abruptly changed course and in 1999 announced that it would comply with the city's law. The ordinance requires companies that do business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if it offers those benefits to employees' spouses. While the law affected hundreds of companies that have city contracts, United was the one firm that balked the loudest and extensively litigated the matter before losing on two fronts—in the court of law and in the court of public opinion.

Members of Equal Benefits Advocates, however, did their homework when they

launched the boycott. They rallied at community events and regularly held demonstrations to draw public attention to the cause. They enlisted the help of the Teamsters, and the city's Democratic establishment. A broad coalition of community leaders, from activists to politicians, jumped on board and it was only after the boycott took on a life of its own that HRC belatedly joined it. We remember, we were there.

Today, a year after the merger, HRC is calling for the boycott against Exxon Mobil—but only halfway. They aren't demanding that domestic partner benefits be restored to all eligible employees (as it stands now, employees of Mobil who were covered by the policy at the time of the takeover have the benefits). Nor does it appear that HRC has enlisted the

help of gay and lesbian workers at the oil company giant; rather, they are asking that people stop patronizing Exxon Mobil businesses and cut up their credit cards, and send half of the card to the company and the other half to HRC.

Birch said there are no plans to run a media campaign around the boycott, and that means many people in the community probably won't hear about it.

While we would certainly urge Exxon Mobil to add sexual orientation to its equal employment opportunity statement and expand domestic partner benefits to all eligible employees

rather than just to those who worked for Mobil before the buyout, we must question whether a national boycott, led from the top down, is a wise move or one well-planned for success. ▼



Editorial



Boys do cry

by Riki Wilchins

I heard the news of the recent ruling in JoAnn Brandon's wrongful death suit in the murder of her son, Brandon Teena. It was just days after the Human Rights Watch broke the news on their survey on male prisoner rape, and only weeks after still another school shooting involving a student who had reportedly been routinely intimidated and gender-baited.

Gender-based violence runs like a fault line through society, separating the strong from the weak, the dominant from the vulnerable, the violent from the more peaceful. The authorities' frequent failure to act mirrors our own inactivity and silence, as if gender-based violence is an ugly, but unavoidable, byproduct of gender roles.

According to HRW's report, prison guards look the other way in thousands of rapes of victims who are smaller, less violent, and thus more sexually vulnerable, and according to an article in the Bay Area Reporter, school officials ignored the frequent harassment and bullying directed at the majority of recent school shooting assailants. And as for transgender violence, activists in New York are planning a memorial vigil for Amanda Milan, who had her throat cut last year as she was entering a cab and bled to death.

In each case, gender is used to dehumanize and degrade. Prisoners who have been raped are often referred to as "bitches." The favored taunt used against student assailants was "faggot." Amanda Milan's assailant reportedly yelled, "You're a man!" and "I know that's a dick you have in between your legs!"

Of the murdered Brandon Teena, Sheriff Charles Laux famously retorted, "You can call it 'it' for all I care." Forty of us quietly assembled on the courthouse square to hold a memorial vigil on May 15, 1995, the day John Lotter and Tom Nissen went on trial. I

doubt any of us could have clearly explained why we were there, except to say by our presence that his murder was terribly wrong and those at fault should be held accountable.

We stood quietly in the cold sunlight with our posters and T-shirts and signs and by noon the local neo-Nazis were circling the square in their cars, giving us stiff-armed "Sieg Heil" salutes out the windows, spitting at us, and occasionally trying to run us off the sidewalks with their pickups.

Townpeople drove by and offered every reaction in the world, from the incredulous gaze to complete indifference, the quiet supportive word to the unprintable observation on Brandon's body. A local farmer confided he hated this whole murder thing because his taxes had gone up so much to pay for the trial he was in danger of having to sell his farm.

Nissen got life without possibility of parole. Lotter got the death sentence. Sheriff Laux went on to become a county commissioner.

Five days before they killed him, Lotter and Nissen abducted Brandon, beat him bloody, took turns raping him, and then forced him to shower to remove evidence of their assault. They threatened to kill him if he told the sheriff, which he immediately did, believing he would get protection.

He was wrong. Instead, Sheriff Laux subjected Brandon to a demeaning interview that featured exchanges like these:

CBL: And what did you have in your underpants?... You didn't have a sock? Do you run around once in a while with a sock in your pants to make you look like a boy?

BT: Yeah.

CBL: Okay. So then after he could stick in your vagina he stuck it in your box or in your buttocks, is that right?

BT: Yes, sir.

CBL: How long did he do that?

BT: Long enough, I didn't time it.

CBL: I mean did he, did it seem like a lifetime. Or what?

BT: It seems like it took forever.

CBL: All right, did it feel like he stuck it in very far? Or not?

BT: I don't know how far. It hurt.

CBL: Did you holler all the time he was putting it in?

When they discovered Brandon had gone to the sheriff—which was easy since he invited all three to his office at the same time—Lotter and Nissen returned as they'd promised and killed Brandon right after Christmas Day, 1993. They shot and then stabbed him in the stomach until he was dead. Then they killed an African American friend who was staying over and his girlfriend to prevent any witnesses. The couple's infant child they spared.

As the first day of their trial ended we packed up, hugged quick goodbyes, and returned to Iowa City or New York or Mendocino. We had no way of knowing that right then, back in Haverill, Massachusetts, a transgender woman named Debbie Forte was being strangled and stabbed to death.

On May 20—almost six years to the day—a Nebraska State Supreme Court unanimously told Sheriff Charles Laux what I believe we had been trying to say. That his behavior was "extreme and outrageous." That he was "negligent" in his duty. That victims of gender-based violence have the right to equal protection under the law, regardless of their gender. It's a lesson our prisons, police, and schools must learn. ▼

Riki Wilchins is executive director of GenderPAC, the national gender advocacy group. She can be reached through their Web site at www.gpac.org.

LETTERS

Audrey Joseph's a friend

In response to the *Bay Area Reporter's* article on Club Universe 911 policies [*"Club Universe's 911 policies revealed in wrongful death lawsuit,"* June 7], I am writing in support of Audrey Joseph.

Audrey Joseph has helped raise millions of dollars to support local and national AIDS service organizations. And she has done so on her own volition because she deeply cares.

LIFEbeat the Music Industry Fights AIDS is a non-profit organization dedicated to reaching America's youth with the message of HIV/AIDS prevention. LIFEbeat mobilizes the talents and resources of the music industry to raise awareness and funds, and to provide support to the AIDS community.

Last year, Audrey organized a benefit at Club Universe for LIFEbeat. Through her efforts we were able to raise much-needed funds to support our programs as well as make a contribution to two AIDS service organizations in San Francisco.

She worked tirelessly on our behalf during a time when she had an impending surgery and with the possibility of having her leg amputated.

Audrey Joseph is a beloved and highly respected member of the dance music industry. She has done so much for gay rights, for AIDS-related issues, and for launching the careers of many musicians and deejays.

LIFEbeat is grateful for the professional association with Audrey Joseph and Club Universe. I am profoundly honored to call her my friend.

Leslie B. Doyle

Director of Special Events
and Corporate Relations
LIFEbeat
New York, New York

Backhanded compliment?

Oh dear, just when I thought the *B.A.R.* had improved itself the teeniest bit, along comes another installment in the long-running hate Audrey Joseph saga, replete with the usual crude innuendoes and breathless "revelations." (Drugs? In the 1970s? In San Francisco? I can but read the dismay!)

Walter Lippman [sic] put it succinctly: "Criticism is what you get when you have everything else." Since the days in caves, alas, little people have been yapping at the heels of those whom they perceive to be somehow more than they are, trying to bring them down.

I hope that Ms. Joseph will recognize your din for the backhanded compliment it really is.

Victor J. Banis
San Francisco

Tasteless story

I would just like you to know that I think this article [*"Club Universe's 911 policies revealed in wrongful death lawsuit,"* June 7], was totally tasteless and despicable. You call yourself a newspaper? That you serve your community? What you did here was nothing less than try to destroy the reputation of someone who has paid her debts to society. If you look at yourself I'm sure that you will see that you are not spotless either. Look real hard now. Where was the objectiveness that a paper is supposed to have? Why wasn't Audrey interviewed? Or some of the staff in the office? Were you afraid? This article is nothing more than sleazy journalism and I hope that you are proud of yourselves for printing such a lousy piece of trash as this. What could her convictions (the ones in 1975 and 1977) have to do with this gentleman dying in her club? Did she somehow reach into this man's chest and strangle his heart? I think not. From my understanding, Audrey wasn't even in the club that evening.

My wish for you and your newspaper is that you will bottom out and never sell another sheet of rag again. You know what they say? What goes around, comes around.

Shelly Erby
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

[Editor's note: Audrey Joseph declined to speak with us, other than to say she was not in the club that evening, which was in the article. Her lawyers did not return repeated phone calls seeking comment for the story.]

A matter of entitlement

I have read, with amusement, the recent rantings of the offended population regarding the term queer in general and the theme "Queerific" specifically. As an African American male who does not self identify with the term queer, I have come to embrace it as an all-defining word to substitute for the cumbersome, inclusive alternative of "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning," or the choice for some, particularly in the African American community, "same-gender loving," or whatever else various subgroups choose to self identify.

As for the mainly older white male population who seems to cry loudest at the word queer, I understand their indignation. After all, isn't this the same

group who first distanced themselves from drag queens until drag queens fought with police on that celebrated night 32 years ago? This group of gay white men rode the coattails of these drag queens, took over the movement, and excluded people of color, transgenders, and women. They then took their new sense of "pride" and flocked to dance clubs, twirling to music by women, people of color, and transgenders inside while excluding or making to feel unwelcome the women, people of color, and transgenders waiting to enter outside. They then formed "civil rights" organizations while again excluding women, transgenders, and people of color and issues affecting those communities. Even their response to the AIDS epidemic was by, for, and about gay white males. So they are correct. They aren't "queer." There is nothing odd about them. The only difference between them and their heterosexual counterparts are that they admit to having sex with men. These gay white men are actually white gay men - they are white first and foremost. Long before they knew that they were gay, they (and everyone else) knew they were white, and being born a white male automatically comes with a sense of entitlement that they naturally bring with them into the "alternative" world. Many of them recognize this and strive to be inclusive in their dealings with all groups in the queer community. Unfortunately, there are also those like Scott Sproat [*Mailstrom*, May 31] who find it so absolutely incredulous that the queer parade and festival are not centered around the needs of only white men that he chooses not to participate. I'll bet he feels right at home in Concord.

Guy Wayne
San Francisco

Negative connotations

I am writing today to express my dissatisfaction in the choice of this year's theme for the Pride Parade and festival, which is "Queerific." For those of us over 40, the word queer has nothing but negative connotations. Many of us were called "queer" by classmates and strangers, even before we may have discovered sexuality, let alone homosexuality. Some of us may have even taunted others with that same word in our youth.

If one takes the time to look up "queer," the definitions include "worthless," "differing in some odd way from what is usual or normal," "mildly insane," "absorbed or interested to an extreme or unreasonable degree," and "not quite well." Hardly a good choice of words to demonstrate pride in ourselves.

There are those, often younger people, who believe that by using this word, that we have taken away its hurtful power. Nothing can take away the negative connotations that this word engenders by its use. No more than using the n-word by blacks takes away its hurt, the use of queer still sparks a twinge in many of us. Both of these words (and several others) are still used by those who would oppress so many of us for who we are.

If queer is such a good word, then we might as well use "Fagastic" as the theme. I am not queer. I may be a homosexual, I may be gay, but like so many of my contemporaries, I am not queer. Its use insults me, my friends, and my predecessors. It ignores the pain that we have endured so that we all could celebrate our lives as contributing members of society.

It is now my understanding that there is someone (perhaps backed by the SFLGBTGCC) in the process of trying to persuade businesses and charities to contribute to full page ads supporting this demeaning "Queerific" theme. Like many others, I can vote with my dollars. Those who support this effort won't be getting my money, and they'll lose more than the requested contribution.

Were it not for my commitment to the community, I would not even attend the parade or festival in protest. But as disappointed that I am with the theme, I will show my support for the community by serving as a safety monitor. I sincerely hope that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee can become more sensitive to the feelings of all of our community, and choose a theme next year that does not insult a large percentage of their participants and supporters.

If we can get them to do that, then maybe in a few years, they'll shorten the name to just San Francisco Pride Parade and festival. That would be a truly inclusive name, allowing our heterosexual supporters (such as PFLAG) to march with pride as well.

Rod Wood
Northern California Mr. Drummer 2000
San Francisco

Where's the Pride in the Castro?

The premier destination above all others of our thousands of Pride Parade visitors is the Castro. And this year - again - Castro Street is unprepared. Look up at the residences, fire escapes, and business fronts and one sees a Castro Street that could be in any other month.

next page ►

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Mailstrom

◀ previous page

In the mid-1970s, before the sorrows of the epidemic, these same windows and fire escapes would be a bouquet of rainbow colors. Rainbow flags were everywhere one looked; there seemed no space without one. Posters telling about the Gay Freedom Day parade were on street poles. Someone – now probably long gone – managed to put a flag on the Muni wires near the center of 18th and Castro streets. The word freedom in the parade's name was truly heartfelt by everyone.

My neighbor asked the manager of a Castro Street chain-owned spaghetti eatery if he would consider putting out a rainbow flag over the street entrance. He refused and said that he did not want his restaurant "identified like that," even though the standing-room crowd appeared nearly completely gay.

Do you get the feeling that something is missing?

Irwin W. Schonberger
San Francisco

A big Bear hug from DSCS

This is a public letter of gratitude to the Bears of San Francisco for their recent grant of \$8,000 in support of the programs and services of Dolores Street Community Services. It is particularly meaningful for a relatively small nonprofit organization when our community supports us. With the hundreds of excellent programs to choose from, we are humbled and honored by their choice.

The grant will be used in support of DSCS' programs and services which include the Dolores Housing Program, San Francisco's only provider of shelter services targeting Latino working poor; the Richard M. Cohen House, San Francisco's only licensed care facility in a non-institutionalized setting for people living with AIDS; and a much used community center which hosts a needle exchange program in women-safe space, a medical clinic for street youth, and many 12-step programs.

For more information on Dolores Street Community Services, please call (415) 282-6209 or check out www.dscs.org.

Bob Nelson, Executive Director
Dolores Street Community Services

Society needs to examine itself

How utterly horrifying that Victoria Brownworth suggests classifying homophobia as a mental illness ["Is homophobia mental illness?", *Guest Opinion*, June 7]. In doing so, she propagates the myth that doctors should "treat" people with views that are unacceptable to society and lets down those with real and serious mental health problems.

If we call homophobes mentally ill, then we as a society have the duty to care for them in the same way as we should care for all those who are ill. In other words, we must provide them with compassionate care, understanding, acceptance, and sanctuary. Is this what she envisions? People who are ill are not responsible for their suffering, and deserve our empathy. Homophobes who commit violent acts should not be granted sanctuary, but should be criminalized, for they know what it is that they do. It is dangerous to ask psychiatrists to become jailers – they are doctors, not agents of the criminal justice system.

In saying that "extreme racism is as pathological and dangerous as untreated schizophrenia," Brownworth stigmatizes people with schizophrenia by suggesting that they are a grave risk to others. The evidence suggests otherwise. People with schizophrenia are far more likely to harm themselves than to harm others. And the proportion of homicides committed by those with mental illness has been steadily declining for years.

Any society that breeds homophobic, racist, or anti-Semitic violence needs to examine itself, and ask how it fostered such behavior rather than tackling it at its roots. Medicalizing this behavior is just an easy "get-out" – we ask doctors to "treat" the problem and deny that we all have a responsibility to deal with it.

Dr. Gavin Yamey, Deputy Editor
Western Journal of Medicine
San Francisco

Dishonest hate speech?

Several of your readers brought Victoria Brownworth's essay to our attention ["Is homophobia mental illness?" *Guest Opinion*, June 7]. We are deeply concerned that her vicious attack on "young, white males" will be considered an invitation to unbalanced people to brutalize "young, white males" on San Francisco's streets. Thugs who hate like Brownworth does may not ask if "young, white males" are gay before lashing out.

Remember that a couple of years ago *San Francisco Frontiers* ran an article characterizing most white males as members of the hate criminal class, and later that week a red-haired Irish American was brutalized on a sidewalk in San Francisco. He was gay.

Brownworth's dishonest hate speech about

"young, white males" was clearly calculated to target them for violence.

Bo Sears
Resisting Defamation
Sunnyvale, California

Jake on McTIC ordinance

Recently, I introduced legislation to provide tenants a realistic opportunity for truly affordable home ownership, while also protecting tenants who are unable to own. My home ownership for tenants ordinance would regulate tenancies-in-common by bringing them under the condominium conversion laws, thereby limiting wholesale evictions via TIC conversions. It also would provide tenants with greatly increased opportunities to own their own units, while protecting those who remain tenants.

In exchange for regulating TICs, this ordinance would create a new pool of 200 units for tenants below median income who wish to buy their own units. Because such tenants qualify for government down-payment assistance, they would be in a realistic position to become owners of their rental units. Other tenants in such buildings who are above median income also would benefit because they too could convert.

In addition, my legislation exempts two-unit buildings from regulation. It also exempts TICs formed by family members (including domestic partners). Finally, every TIC purchased before January 2001 will be able to convert to a condo without going through the existing lottery.

Finally, this legislation bears little resemblance to Proposition N, which was defeated by voters last November. Opponents who characterize my ordinance as the same as Proposition N are distorting the facts with overblown rhetoric. I paid close attention to that election. That is the reason that I have worked so hard to create a fair, balanced, and workable solution that provides for tenant home ownership while also protecting tenants who are unable to own.

Jake McGoldrick, Member
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Society owes nothing to homeless

Of all groups in town, the homeless (or domicile free) are the most successful if success is measured by pursuing and achieving their bliss.

We are dealing here with a population that is 85 percent substance abusers, 10 percent mental stability challenged, and 5 percent other, in short, overwhelmingly drunken, deranged, dope fiends. But who among us is to say them "neigh."

Each day they single-mindedly pursue their objectives with great success, devoting all the bits of money they have been able to wheedle out of the employed to further their goal of satisfying their cravings. The government did not force them to take drugs, indeed it marshaled against addiction, as did their friends and family. They heroically flew in the face of convention "and did it their way."

Therefore, society owes them nothing, and any attempt to ameliorate their existence is only enabling them to continue on their self-destructive path. Neither should we interfere with them as long as they obey the laws and don't befoul the city with trash and excrement.

We should simply recognize that some people choose to live without the expense and trouble of a home and a job. We should neither help nor hinder them, just let them be.

James Keefer
San Francisco

Challenge to Friday

Is Wayne Friday's political moxie slipping or is he merely speaking "tongue in cheek" when he wonders as to whom Willie Brown made reference as his "one vote on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors" [*Our Man Friday*, May 31].

Actually, the mayor doesn't have one vote in the traditional Boss Tweed Ring/Tammany Hall sense of the word. The question should have been put to the mayor: "Which supervisor(s) do you trust the most?" Being an old-fashioned school teacher, I would rank them in order of: trust, experience, sagacity, expertise, resoluteness, and verbal discretion.

On the mayor's recent sojourn, to whom did Mayor Brown entrust his keys of his kingdom? And why? In the event of a 1906-type quake, a 1930s waterfront shutdown, or riots like the White Night or Third Street episodes, whom of the high-placed 11 would you want at the helm?

Incidentally, regarding their desire for a salary boost to that of a full-time position, one loud-mouth KGO talk show host claims that the idea sits well with him. However, he insists that the districts be cut down to five and let the 11 supervisors battle it out. I challenge Wayne Friday to get out his pencil and choose the survivors disregarding age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, political alliances and supporters, and other inbred factors which helped them get into office. Wayne's list would be most interesting to all your readers.

Bill J. Johnson
San Francisco

POLITICS

GOP governor contest shaping up; Renne backs Herrera

by Wayne Friday

William E. Simon Jr., the son of former Treasury Secretary **William E. Simon**, announced through campaign aides last week that he will make his first run for political office, running for the Republican nomination for governor of California.

Simon, a millionaire investment banker who served briefly as a federal prosecutor in New York in the mid-1980s, now makes his home in Southern California and is expected to make his candidacy formal in a couple of months. So far, the only other GOP candidate set to run against Democratic incumbent Governor **Gray Davis** in 2002 is Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, the state's highest ranking elected Republican officeholder. Jones, however, has yet to impress state GOP leaders looking for someone to challenge Davis and has reportedly only raised about \$200,000, compared to Davis' \$26 million. Political writers have already begun to mock his lagging candidacy for its lack of focus and seeming inability to get off the ground.

Indeed, state Republicans are said to be so disheartened with the Jones campaign that they have intensified their pressure on outgoing Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** to accept what is quickly becoming something akin to a draft for next year's race. Responding to requests from top California Republicans, Riordan said that he would tour the state soon before deciding whether to enter a race in which he once said he wasn't interested. During last month's visit to California, President **George W. Bush** reportedly urged Riordan to challenge Davis, but given Bush's current popularity in California, it is doubtful whether Riordan spent much time listening to Bush's suggestion; some Republicans feel that Bush's involvement in the gubernatorial race on behalf of any candidate would be more of a political hindrance than a help.

A recent *Washington Post*-ABC News Poll shows that public support nationally for Bush has dropped 8 percentage points in the past month, reportedly due in large part to eroding confidence in his energy and environmental policies as well as growing concerns over the direction that Bush and his party are leading the country. According to the poll, the proportion of Americans who say they disapprove of the Bush administration's energy policies now stands at 57 percent — up 15 points from a similar ABC News Poll of just three weeks ago.

Riordan, incidentally, will relinquish his mayoral job to Democrat **James Kenneth Hahn** on July 1, and recent polls do show Riordan could at least hold his own against Democrat Davis. However, after eight years as mayor of the nation's second-

largest city, and at the age of 71, some of his close advisers say Riordan secretly desires to return to private life.

Should Riordan accede to GOP requests and enter the race, he would likely be an appealing candidate in that he would probably draw independent and Democratic voters. In his two L.A. mayoral campaigns, the maverick Republican has connected well with people his fellow party leaders have had trouble reaching; he is a conservative on fiscal issues, a moderate on social issues in that he supports gay rights and had an openly gay deputy mayor, and is being encouraged to run by some of his allies among Long Cabin Republicans, the organization for gay and lesbian Republicans.

Riordan, a Catholic, says he feels abortion is a personal matter that the government should stay out of, and though he did endorse Bush in the final weeks of the presidential campaign, he has long been close to former President **Bill Clinton** and supported Democratic U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** for re-election last year. In 1998, Riordan supported Republican **Dan Lungren** for governor, but a year later donated \$12,500 to Davis's campaign coffers.

If Riordan has a passionate issue in politics it seems to be the schools, a cause he fervently champions. With Jones's campaign faltering, and Simon perhaps waiting too long to enter the contest, Republicans looking to run a strong challenge against the well-known, well-financed Davis are putting plenty of pressure on Riordan to run. The outgoing L.A. mayor has demonstrated his ability to win voters across party lines and with independent voters possibly holding the balance of power in the 2002 governor's race, Riordan, a man who is really more of an independent in Republican clothing, is very likely to run for California governor next year.

Politics and people

S.F. Police Commissioner **Denis Herrera**, a partner in a maritime law firm who is running for city attorney, got a big boost last week when outgoing City Attorney **Louise Renne** endorsed him for the powerful City Hall position. Herrera, a former chief of staff in President Clinton's Maritime Administration, also picked up the support of several gay and lesbian leaders, including **Mary Dunlap**, director of the Office of Civilian Complaints.

Antonio Villaraigosa, who has many friends in San Francisco, lost his race to become Los Angeles mayor last week but ended up with more than \$1.3 million in the bank for a likely run for Congress or the state Senate. The mayoral race also lifted his profile substantially, as the nation saw Villaraigosa as one of the brightest stars to come from the politically powerful Hispanic community.

Another longtime San Francis-

co favorite in L.A. politics, former state Senator **Tom Hayden**, lost his bid for a city council seat by less than 200 votes.



Supervisor Mark Leno

Despite all the recent talk about an opponent in the March 2002 Democratic primary, 13th Assembly District candidate **Mark Leno** won important endorsements last week from U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, Supervisors **Gavin Newsom** and **Sophie Maxwell**, former Mayor **Art Agnos**, BART director **Tom Radulovich**, and Community College Board Director **Dr. Anita Greer**.

With the recent defection by Vermont U.S. Senator **James Jeffords** from the GOP giving control of the Senate to the Democrats (Jeffords became an independent, voting with the Democratic caucus), word from D.C. is that the Bush White House has grown increasingly concerned about the party loyalty of yet another Republican member, U.S. Senator **Lincoln Chaffee** of Rhode Island. Chaffee, now clearly the Republican's most liberal member, denies any defection plans, but the GOP is said to be watching both him and Arizona's **John McCain**, who Bush is convinced cannot resist another run at the White House. Indeed, while McCain denies any plan to bolt the GOP, some of his own advisers are quietly passing hints that he is indeed thinking of leaving the GOP and running for president as an independent in 2004.

The latest on the Bush twins: Now it can be told that **Barbara**, (she's the one who only got busted once in Texas) was quietly caught using a fake ID last October at a bar called Toad's Place in New Haven, Connecticut. The security person at the joint did not report it to the cops but did keep the ID, which, according to *Newsweek* he now has framed and keeps in his family room. The phony ID identifies Barbara, who was attending her freshman year at Yale, as "Barbara Pierce" (her grandmother's maiden name), adds three years to her birth date, and gives a bogus Baltimore address. The other Bush twin, **Jenna**, had better watch out — she's been cited twice within a month in Austin and ironically it was then-Governor George W. Bush who signed that 1997 Texas amendment that stiffened the penalty for a third-strike alcohol-related offense in the Lone Star State.

Former President Clinton, still

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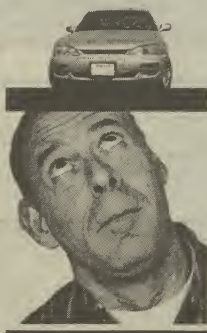
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The 'Signorile Rule'

by Dale Carpenter

Gay journalism — often long on gay and short on journalism — has reached a prurient low. The recent flurry of "reporting" — most notably by Michelangelo Signorile — on alleged details of Andrew Sullivan's sex life establishes aggressive new rules for the discussion of the private lives of gay public figures. Some opportunists may view these rules as a useful weapon against gay conservatives, but this particular sword cuts both ways.

In a gay newspaper, Signorile "confirmed" rumors that Sullivan had anonymously posted two ads on the Internet seeking bareback (condomless) sex. Signorile, a self-confessed ideological foe of Sullivan's, asserted the confirmation came from two men who said they contacted Sullivan through the ads. Signorile did not disclose their names or anything about them. He added some salacious details from the ads about Sullivan's supposed physical attributes and specific erotic tastes. A few gay rags and other minor news outlets — but so far no respected mainstream newspapers — repeated Signorile's charges.

Even assuming the truth of Signorile's claims (Sullivan has since vaguely acknowledged he placed such ads), why are they news? There seem to be three principal arguments for the newsworthiness of Sullivan's sex life. Each argument fails, suggesting the episode is at bottom a nasty payback for Sullivan's heterodox views on gay issues.

The first argument charges Sullivan with hypocrisy. Relying on selective excerpts from Sullivan's voluminous writings, this argument holds Sullivan is a "moralist" who advocates same-sex marriage but whose personal behavior is inconsistent with his public positions.

Why is belief in the importance of marriage as a civil right and as a social institution incompatible with wanting sex? Sullivan isn't married and has been candid that he is probably not cut out for it.

Sullivan has also criticized gay male culture in some respects as sex-obsessed (a characterization that might also fairly be laid on Signorile's opinionated stoop). Yet an ad seeking sexual partners — which is functionally indistinguishable from standing at a bar

with a cocktail in your hand — hardly corroborates a charge that Sullivan himself is sex-obsessed. Further, it does not undercut an argument that gay culture is sex-obsessed. But then Signorile's exposé is not aimed at an argument; it is aimed at a person.

More to the point, Sullivan has not condemned unprotected sex between fully informed HIV-positive individuals. In fact, as we shall see, Sullivan has done very nearly the opposite.

The second argument charges Sullivan with personal irresponsibility. It holds Sullivan is partaking in a wave of unprotected sex that is producing rising rates of HIV infection and, when it occurs between two HIV-positive people, risks generating untreatable "superinfections."

Yet in the purported Internet ads Sullivan disclosed he is HIV-positive and sought HIV-positive

complacency about AIDS may be little more than a cover to justify his own risky behavior. His motives, this argument insists, are therefore suspect.

Even if that's true, it's not clear why it makes Sullivan's personal life newsworthy. If his arguments about the incidence of unsafe sex and skyrocketing new infections are wrong, it ought to be possible to refute those arguments regardless of whether he uses rubbers.

However, if Sullivan is right that AIDS organizations and health care professionals are sensationalizing the disease in order to stuff their own coffers with private donations and government largesse, it's irrelevant that he barebacks.

In short, nothing in the important public health debate about the future of AIDS turns on what Sullivan's subjective motivations are. We should focus on how Sullivan uses his arguments, not on how he uses his genitals.

Here then is the new "Signorile

But then Signorile's exposé is not aimed at an argument; it is aimed at a person.

partners. Further, there is some scientific dispute about the possibility, consequences, and frequency of superinfection.

A safer course would surely be to use a condom. But then an even safer course would be to avoid sex altogether. And no one suggests Sullivan, or any other HIV-positive person, has completely lost the right to have a sex life.

Whatever else he is, and whatever the potential risks of superinfection, Sullivan is not some new Patient Zero singlehandedly creating a dangerous epidemic where none existed before. His personal irresponsibility, assuming that's what it is, is no more newsworthy than the irresponsibility of countless other individuals who indulge the universal preference for condomless sex.

The third argument charges Sullivan with rationalization. It is the opposite of the hypocrisy charge since it claims Sullivan's personal behavior is consistent with his public positions. Sullivan has written that AIDS, as an uncontrollable epidemic, is over. He also has challenged the evidence of rising HIV-infection rates and has trumpeted the joys of condomless sex. Sullivan's arguable

Rule" for reporting on people's sex lives: Based solely on unnamed sources whose existence, veracity, and motivations can't be questioned by independent observers, it is appropriate to muse on the alleged details of a political adversary's sex life, provided one offers some pretext relating the gossip to the adversary's publicly held views.

I have an immodest proposal. Following Signorile's rules, I will set up an e-mail account (SignorileGossip@aol.com) to which you may send information about the sex life of Michelangelo Signorile. If I determine the information is either consistent or inconsistent with anything Signorile has written about gay life, I will publish it along with appropriately sober commentary. I will, of course, protect the identity and any hidden political or personal agendas of my sources.

If Signorile rules, after all, how could I go wrong? ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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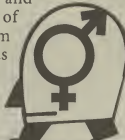
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Where's the pride in being transgender?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

It's June, and around here that means Pride Month. And that means that I want to talk a bit about transgender pride.

That sounds almost like an oxymoron. While transgendered people are no stranger to guilt and shame, pride can be very elusive. We learn to hide our desires, to not discuss our needs, and even keep our "stash" of clothes well hidden from prying eyes. Many of us only present in our chosen gender at home, in hotel rooms, or – at best – in the dead of night, on secret trips around the block.



Transmissions

Even those of us who choose to transition from one gender to another, and undergo hormonal and surgical changes, often do our best to hide a transgendered past, treating it as our "dirty little secret." We are often encouraged by our care givers and peers to "go deep stealth" and keep our transgendered nature from any and all we meet.

So, I have to ask myself this: With so much tied into hiding our transgendered selves, why should a transgendered person be interested in a Pride event?

The easy answer is this: San Francisco pride is one of the most transgender-friendly events out there. Aside from transgender groups like FTM International and Transgender San Francisco (TGSF) participating, and transgendered performers like our own wonderful Veronica Klaus and Israeli transsexual singing sensation Dana International performing at this year's event, this is the first year where an openly transgendered woman, Cecilia Chung, is serving as board president for the event.

There were also five transgendered nominees for parade grand

marshal. While none of them won, San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno was one of those chosen – and Leno has proven himself over and over to be a willing and valuable asset to the transgender community. I marched with his contingent last year because I wanted to show him that he had my support for his good work.

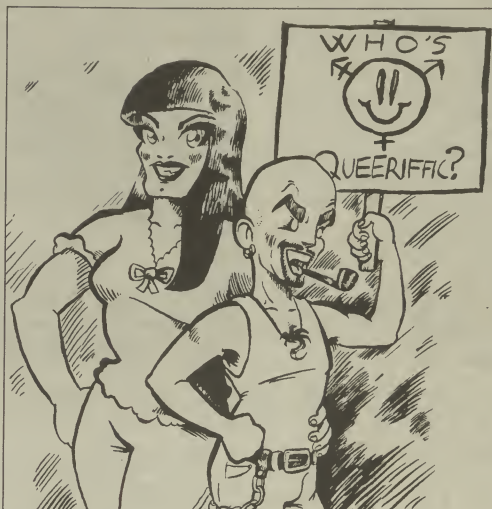
In a community that still largely clings to the relative safety of the closet, I doubt that any of the above is reason enough to be a part of our local event. So let's dig a little deeper, and look at pride itself.

Pride is all about self-respect, and about seeing a sense of value in ourselves and our accomplishments. That can seem a very foreign concept when one only sees their transgendered self as something to be deeply ashamed of or, at best, as a guilty pleasure.

We live in a world that is growing increasingly tolerant of our transgendered selves. During the time of Stonewall, being publicly transgendered could mean a trip to the local jail, or worse. Though it is not yet a perfect world, we are now – ever so slowly – being seen as human beings with a value of our own, and worthy of rights and respect.

This is certainly something we can understand here, with the recent health benefits victory, as well as bills to protect our rights currently in the running at the state level. These are things to be proud of, if not for ourselves, then for those who helped make it possible. Take pride in living in an area that values you so much that it is willing to protect your rights as a transgendered person.

Of course, there are also those out there who would rather we remain in our closets. They don't really want you to hide for your own good, mind you – they want you



Christine Smith

there so they can have the run of the roost. Being willing to take a little pride in who you are can secure that the rights we've gained don't get lost along the way.

Finally, think for a moment what it means to be transgendered, and to do something about it. There are many who opted to live unfulfilled lives, hiding away parts of themselves, and leaving other portions unexplored. Yet many of us have taken some steps, discovering ourselves along the way, and doing something to enrich our lives within our transgendered nature.

Some of us have had to face seemingly insurmountable odds to just be ourselves. We've had to struggle against unsupportive families, against unemployment and ridicule, and against our own demons. For many of us it can be a wonder that we have survived, let alone been able to flourish in a gender other than the one assigned to us at birth.

Many of us have reached out, meeting others, joining social or support groups, and finding peers via the Internet, building community along the way. No longer are we the scattered few of only a few

short years ago.

A large number of us have even taken our transgendered nature out of the closet and into the world, presenting in a gender of our choosing for as little as minutes to as much as the lion's share of a lifetime. Indeed, some explore places few others see, and can come to a sense of self well beyond that of other, non-transgendered counterparts. There are even a few out there who embody this year's Pride theme, taking "Queerific" to a whole new level.

This can be a magical journey, taking the concept of "transformation" into unique locations along our path. We become the person we should be, and reach a place of comfort with who and what we are. ▼

Gwen Smith is looking for a good group to march with this year. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."

Breast Cancer Study

Local community orgs. and Dr. Spiegel's group at Stanford are offering free support groups to women with breast cancer for involvement in a study on coping and stress. All participants receive four months of free support groups and \$40 for 4 assessments over a year. Support groups are held in SF and Walnut Creek.

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Our Man Friday

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a draw on the fundraising circuit, will appear next week in San Francisco to raise bucks for the Democrats.

Finally, we have a troubling item about California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. During a recent press conference, Lockyer, speaking of his obvious dislike for Enron Corporation Chairman Kenneth Lay, said that he "would love to personally escort Lay to an 8-by-10 cell that he could share with a tattooed dude who says, 'Hi, my name is Spike, honey.'" Lockyer – and the rest of California residents – might well have

plenty of reason to dislike Lay, head of the Houston-based energy company that is among those thought to be ripping off California consumers, but does the state's top law enforcement official really sanction rape? Does Lockyer mean that he would really love to personally arrange a man's rape in prison? Does he admit that he feels rape is an appropriate punishment for any person in a California prison? To be sure, we have little respect for any energy producer who "rapes" California electricity consumers, but Lockyer should be thrown from office for even acknowledging that prison rape is the norm, much less advocating it.

And how was your week? ▼



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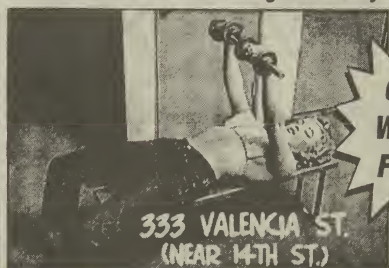
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Rolo-over

by Jane Warner

Rolo, 450 Castro Street, June 8, 6 p.m.: An elderly man who was trying to parallel park his car outside of the clothing store Rolo at 450 Castro Street was aided by his wife who stood behind the car and offered directions. Suddenly the man, mistaking the gas pedal for the brake, backed over his wife and careened through the window of the store. The man's Acura broke two of Rolo's 8 foot glass windows, but nobody inside was hurt. His wife, however, was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where she was listed in serious condition with internal injuries, a broken pelvis, and a fractured leg.

Sleazy rider

Market and 16th, June 8, 7:12 a.m.: A woman was walking on

Market crossing 16th when a man riding a teal bicycle approached her from behind and grabbed the strap of her shoulder purse. Screaming, the woman fought back and held onto the bag. The suspect attempted to pull the purse away again, but the woman broke free and ran across the street to Gold's Gym, where she called police. The thief, described as a white male in his 30s, with shoulder-length hair, unshaven, wearing a black T-shirt and dark pants, was last seen riding southbound on Noe from Market. Responding officers were unable to find him.

Practice makes perfect

Boogaloo's Restaurant, 3296 22nd, June 8, 9:25 a.m.: Two women sitting together at an outside table were approached by a man riding a mountain bike who tried to engage them in conversa-



A man's wife was seriously injured June 8 when he accidentally hit the gas instead of the brake while trying to park on Castro Street, sending his car into the front of the Rolo store.

tion. The women politely ended the conversation and the man rode away. After a while, one of the women went into the restaurant, leaving her purse on the table next to her friend. The man on the bike suddenly appeared

and swooped up the handbag. The woman at the table grabbed him by the shirt tails and pulled him off the bike. Seeing the commotion, the woman's friend ran out of the restaurant and tackled the suspect to the ground. Together,

the women were able to wrestle the bag free, thwarting the purse snatcher who got back onto his bike and rode east on 22nd Street toward Mission. Described as a white male, 20-30 years old, 6 feet tall, 160 pounds, with brown hair and a goatee, wearing a black T-shirt and black jeans, the suspect is thought to be the same wannabe thief who attempted to take a woman's purse at Market and 16th two hours earlier.



Has anyone seen "Puppy"?

Bull market

Inglewood District, May 25-26: Police are asking for the public's help in locating "Puppy," a 4-month-old female Pit Bull mix taken during a forced residential burglary in the Inglewood District between 9:30 p.m. on May 25 and 1:30 a.m. on May 26. Jewelry and other personal items were also taken during the burglary, and it appears as though the suspect was familiar with the hours of the residents. Any help in locating this pet would be greatly appreciated; Puppy is tan in color with a white-shaped diamond spot on her back as well as her chest. Any information should be reported to Inspector Stephanie White at (415) 553-1953 or 553-1071. The case number is 010 630 954. ▼

Harry Britt

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a record of doing that, and I enjoy doing that," said Britt, who also envisions his state work to include HIV/AIDS advocacy; tackling the energy crisis as it relates to a range of environmental issues; and packaging a statewide message against the national powers that be.

"Articulating a response to the national George W. Bush climate of neo-Reaganism requires someone who is able to take on the industry lobbyists who prevent Sacramento from responding to real human needs," said Britt. "San Francisco is such a great city, but with Bush in the White House we can't be an island. We must take these values to the rest of the state or we'll be victimized by the people controlling the national debate."

In the meantime, Britt says, his own future looks optimistic.

"I'm a much different candidate than I was before. As a teacher, I have learned a lot, and I understand myself better," he said. Britt's campaign Web site at www.harrybritt.com will be up and running within a matter of weeks, and a campaign party is scheduled for mid-July. He will enjoy this campaign, but is anxious to get to Sacramento if elected.

"When I go," he said, "I will take with me an enormous amount of energy to make things exciting and very productive." ▼

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LGBT heroes honored in SF last weekend

by Katie Szymanski

With movies like *Harold and Maude*, *Nine to Five*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, it's evident that only a gay man with a special style could write and direct such classics. The world lost the filmmaker Colin Higgins to AIDS in 1988, but it gained a foundation in his name that has since funded close to 400 organizations for continuing work on behalf of LGBT people and people with HIV/AIDS.

Last weekend, the foundation awarded its second annual "Courage Awards" to four deserving individuals at a ceremony in San Francisco. Recipients included activists Anthony Colin, Jed Hoffberg, Rosemary Linares, and Olga Orraca-Parades for demonstrating "grace under fire," and for using their personal struggles to gain rights for the larger community.

Colin, 17, is best known for his fight against the Orange County School District in Southern Cali-

fornia. The victim of daily anti-gay harassment from his peers, Colin decided to form a gay-straight alliance in 1998 when he was just 15 years old. When the school refused, Colin took the district to court, winning an injunction against the prohibition of the group that marked the first time school officials were judicially reprimanded for trying to silence gay students.

Hoffberg, now 20 years old, was the victim of severe anti-gay beatings at his high school in Santa Fe, New Mexico. But he redirected his own anger in order to create lasting change at the school, and gave an historic presentation to the local Board of Education that convinced officials to adopt a diversity curriculum that included teachings about homophobia.

Linares, an 18-year-old bisexual from Saline, Michigan, was able to overcome institutionalized homophobia and capture the support of many of her classmates through a powerful presentation on the history of LGBT struggles.



Recipients of Colin Higgins Courage Awards from left, Anthony Colin, Olga Orraca-Parades, Rosemary Linares, and Jed Hoffberg.

She used this momentum to form a gay-straight alliance in spite of violent threats and administrative opposition.

Orraca-Parades has been involved in the fight for LGBT equality for decades and is considered by many to be the leader of

the movement in her homeland of Puerto Rico. In 1992, she formed Encuentro, a gathering that brought together lesbian feminists from all over Latin America. In 1994, she launched the Lesbian Creative Workshop for women to address issues of substance abuse, domestic violence, and health and safety. Today, she serves on the Rainbow Pride Coalition, the organizers of the annual Pride march, which has grown from 200 participants in 1989 to over 4,000 in recent years. Her next battle seeks to overturn Puerto Rico's Article 103, the sodomy law that in 1974 was specifically amended to include consensual acts between women.

These honorees were in San Francisco last Saturday, June 9 to receive their awards, which included a \$10,000 cash prize and an invitation to a private banquet.

The foundation plans to continue this annual tradition, and encourages the public to submit the names of unsung heroes by writing to the Colin Higgins Foundation, P.O. Box 29903, San Francisco, CA 94129-0903, or by visiting www.colinhiggins.org.

UCSF study of marginally housed shows AIDS meds work

by Cynthia Laird

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco have found that HIV-infected homeless and marginally housed people who have trouble sticking to their antiviral regimens may temporarily delay the onset of full blown AIDS if they manage to take at least half of their anti-HIV medications.

The UCSF study, published in the June 1 issue of *AIDS*, found that only 8 percent of the patients who took between 51 percent and 90 percent of their antiviral medications over the 13 months of follow-up progressed to AIDS. Progression to AIDS is defined as a decline in CD4 cell count to below 200 cells or the development of an opportunistic infection. None of the study participants who took 90 percent or more of their medications progressed to AIDS during the follow-up period. Of those who took 50 percent or less of their medications, 41 percent progressed to AIDS.

"This study shows that adherence to medication regimens is not only closely related to viral suppression, but also disease progression. Yet we were surprised that very few of the patients with moderate levels of adherence, in the range of 50-90 percent, developed AIDS. These levels of adherence are too low to achieve durable viral suppression in most people," said Dr. David R. Bangsberg, the study's lead author. He is an assistant professor of medicine at UCSF and director of the Epidemiology and Prevention Interventions Center at San Francisco

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BCA finds black churches can help quietly break AIDS taboos

by David Fraser

It's not exactly preaching to the choir.

But the Black Coalition on AIDS is using an eye-catching poster of African American women in choir robes to help get out the message about what's been reported as soaring HIV rates in the black community.

Recently there has been some media attention on rising rates of HIV infection among men of color, particularly African Americans.

What is often obscured is the growing infection rate among African American women. Infection rates for black women over 50 are now similar to those for young women ages 14-23.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has acknowledged that AIDS is now the number one killer among African American women, nationwide.

A recent CDC study also found surging HIV infection rates among men: 4.4 percent of gay and bisexual men ages 23-29 are newly infected. Among African Americans in that age group, the figure is 14.7 percent, or one in seven.

Half of newly infected men in the U.S. are African Americans, the CDC found.

Condom use?

Ironically, in a separate study locally, the Stop AIDS Project found that 100 percent condom use among MSM increased and leveled among blacks while decreasing among Latinos and whites between 1997 and 1999.

BCA's David Wallace said that some of the Stop AIDS Project's study "doesn't quite mesh" with anecdotal reports on condom use.

"If we did a heavy-duty study over the whole black [San Francisco] population, usage is probably not that high," said Wallace.

But this type of discussion among AIDS service organizations would be taboo in much of the black community. What are the key problems that thwart HIV prevention efforts?

The black community, according to BCA staff members, faces enormous hurdles to getting the prevention message out.

The photograph accompanying this article shows an innovative approach that crystallizes one of the major problems: how to talk about HIV/AIDS.



BCA's David Wallace

"There's a lot more homophobia in the black community," said Wallace. "If a guy is a MSM who also has sex with females, he's not going to tell a woman about that. It would be admitting he's in a high risk group."

"They're on the 'down-low,' hiding in the shadows."

"Down-low" is the phrase used by some African American men when they talk of having sex with men. Often, they don't identify as gay.

Racism is another factor. If the infection rates among white women were comparable, Wallace said, "you can bet your ass it would get lots of exposure."

A number of BCA staffers, including Wallace, are white.

To the churches

Black churches, historically in the forefront of the civil rights struggle, often shut their eyes to the HIV epidemic, Wallace said.

In many areas of San Francisco, like Bayview-Hunters Point, it's very hard to be black and out. As Charles Odom, BCA's program coordinator, told the B.A.R. in a recent interview, another major problem is that "there's no black gay area like the Castro" where African American gays and lesbians can feel entirely at ease.

"There simply isn't a place to come to," Odom said.

Churches, which have long been support centers for the community in times of crisis, often reject homosexuality so vehemently that black gay people feel trapped.

So BCA is taking an indirect approach, looking beyond sexual orientation.

Its church-based campaign is called "In the Spirit of Health." The main poster shows a group of



BCA's new campaign involves African American churches

black women of varying ages, dressed in bright red choir robes, affectionate and happy.

Under the heading "Get Tested," the poster urges, "Get tested for HIV, as well as anything else your doctor suggests..."

The posters show photos of Congresswoman Barbara Lee of Oakland, newscaster Pam Moore of KRON-TV, and deejay Renel of KISS-FM, in order to provide support from local celebrities.

For some groups, said Wallace, especially the transgender community — perhaps the most at risk for infection — there are even more barriers to getting help. "They don't have the resources ... it takes time and effort for leaders to step up and own the issue, to put in front of people their group's needs. So historically, black churches are leaders in the community but they may refuse to deal with all these issues."

"Fortunately," Wallace added, "there are some that have stepped up. But most don't want to wave condoms from the pulpit."

In 1999, churches like Jones Methodist, New Liberation, and Third Baptist began to face the problems in the context of HIV ministry.

"They've been really cool," Wallace commented. "They've realized HIV is affecting the community to such an extent, that if

they remained silent, it's more damaging than trying to promote their views on ways to stop the epidemic.

"They provide spiritual guidance to our clients who want it."

Prison infection

A common infection route for African American women — including older ones — is from their men who have been in prison and may have been infected there. Once they're out, the men are unlikely to talk about their risks, Wallace said.

"These women are still heavily involved in black churches," Wallace added. "So to tackle the problem, we did some social marketing research. We found that positive imagery, like the five black women in the poster, choir members who just stepped out of church, got a good reaction."

"The overall message is general health needs, like checking for osteoporosis, glaucoma, or breast cancer. But the message in addition is the high risk for black women over 50. They may need to ask their doctor for an HIV test." ▼

For more information about HIV testing or other services, contact the Black Coalition on AIDS at (800) 425-4647. The Web site is www.bcoa.org.

UCSF study

◀ previous page

General Hospital. Bangsberg cautioned, however, that the long-term benefit, specifically over decades, may be quite different and may require higher levels of adherence.

"This study suggests that the more pills you take, the better you do," said study co-author Andrew Moss Ph.D., UCSF professor of epidemiology and medicine. "The relationship between adherence and clinical benefit is a continuum, not an all-or-none phenomenon. For every 10 percent increase in adherence we found a 28 percent reduction in the risk of proceeding to AIDS."

The study assessed whether 76

HIV-infected homeless and marginally housed individuals without AIDS who were taking anti-HIV therapy actually took their medications. Researchers counted pills every three to six weeks at the participants' usual places of residence to measure adherence to antiviral therapy. Thirty-two percent had low adherence; they took less than 50 percent of their antiviral medications as prescribed. Almost half, 49 percent, had moderate adherence (between 51 percent and 90 percent), and 20 percent took more than 90 percent of their medications as prescribed.

The levels of HIV virus in each participant's blood was measured monthly and their CD4 cells (the disease fighting blood cells targeted and destroyed by HIV) were measured quarterly. The San

Francisco Department of Public Health's AIDS surveillance registry was used to identify opportunistic infections not detected by the study.

At the beginning of the study, 47 (61 percent) had never received antiviral therapy. Subjects who had initiated antiviral therapy before the study began had been on therapy a median of 14 months.

The study population had a high risk for non-adherence, researchers said. Ninety-three percent of the participants were homeless, 86 percent were male, 59 percent were non-white, 32 percent had had psychiatric hospitalization, and 29 percent had a high prevalence of recent injection drug use.

The study co-authors are Sharon Perry, statistician, and

Richard A. Clark, senior public administrative analyst, both with UCSF's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at SFGH; Edwin D. Charlebois, Ph.D., MPH, UCSF assistant professor of medicine at the EPI center at SFGH; Marjorie Robertson, Ph.D., senior scientist at the Alcohol Research Group at the Public Health Institute, Berkeley; and Dr. Andrew R. Zolopa, assistant professor of medicine at Stanford University's School of Medicine.

The study was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the university-wide AIDS Research Program of the state of California, the UCSF/Gladstone Institute for Virology and Immunology Center for AIDS Research, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. ▼



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Gay mens' dream: A 'magic' lube

Researchers discuss rectal microbicide development at NIAAD workshop

by Bob Roehr

What if the lubricant you use for sex could completely protect you from HIV infection? That dream of gay men and prevention advocates took a step closer toward reality with a research workshop on rectal microbicides sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, June 7-8 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Technically, a microbicide is a chemical agent that kills a microbe, any infectious agent that causes diseases including gonorrhea, syphilis, or HIV. But in a practical sense the word also includes protection gained through internal barrier mechanisms: compounds that inhibit the pathogen's ability to enter the body, and measures that strengthen the body's natural defenses against such invaders.

Just as combination therapy is needed to hold HIV in check, so too the best protection with microbicides likely will include several of these approaches. The compounds will be added to the lube and the only way you will be able to tell what is in it is by reading the label. That's the goal, but it is at least several years away.

Most of the work on microbicides has focused on vaginal use and has built upon spermicides, active compounds used to prevent conception. The most common spermicide is nonoxonyl-9, which is added to many lubes.

In the test tube, N-9 also seemed to have some killing power against STDs, even HIV, though clinical trials have not been so encouraging. Some community-based prevention organizations even promoted N-9 products as having some protective power against HIV when butt-fucking.

But no one had bothered to test N-9 in the rectum, not in humans, not even in animals. Last year, when the Population Council's David Phillips ran those simple tests, he was shocked by what he found. The mucosal epithelia, that single layer "skin" of cells that lines the intestines and acts as a barrier to disease, "was coming off in great sheets of cells."

Phillips found this "very troublesome" because the first line of protection was being eaten away by N-9, leaving lymph cells and others most vulnerable to infection directly exposed to HIV. His discovery led many manufacturers to stop adding N-9 to their lubricants. Many gay men, who once sought out lube with N-9, now actively avoid the remaining products with that additive.

"There is a lot of concern in our health department about N-9" for this very reason, said Connie Celum, a researcher at the University of Washington, in Seattle. She said it is time to move beyond N-9 in the search for effective microbicides.

Bottom line

"There is almost a complete avoidance" of the rectum in terms of sex and disease transmission discussion, said Galen Cortina, a



Researcher Connie Celum

physiologist at the University of California, Los Angeles, "It is simply a non-topic." He described the rectum as "a very poor barrier" to disease, it is "like an accordion" that can expand and contract.

Enemas and sex can cause varying degrees of damage to rectal tissue cells. One normal body response is inflammation as cytokines react to the damage. Some cytokines have the power to up-regulate, or bring to the cell surface, increasing numbers of CCR5 receptors on the immune system's CD4 cells. These receptors are the prime target that HIV uses to invade the immune cells that it most likes to infect.

Maria Abreu, a researcher in bowel disease at UCLA, explained how epithelial cells are "glued together." When they are tightly packed, they even have an electrical charge that repels invaders and protects the tissue beneath. As epithelial cells are killed off, the remaining cells flatten out to try to fill the space. This makes them more vulnerable to infection.

Peter Anton, an HIV researcher also at UCLA, said that regardless of the functional type of cell, the mucosal cells in the gut are more infectable by HIV than are blood cells. The entire gut is a primary source of HIV infection. "There are a lot of cells making more virus and each individual cell is contributing more virus," he said.

HIV infection in turn creates inflammation in the rectum, which draws the immune system's CD4 cells to the site, which are the principal cells that HIV likes to infect, and the cycle feeds on itself creating a major systemic infection. "Anything that decreases inflammation is beneficial, it might decrease viral load in the tissue," said Anton. He is looking at the use of antibiotics in that context.

Research hopes

More than 60 compounds are under investigation for use as possible microbicides. Carraguard, derived from red seaweed and used in products as basic as Campbell's soup, is one of the products furthest along in development. Phillips and his colleagues at the nonprofit Popula-

tion Council have seen promising results with Carraguard in animals and have demonstrated that it is safe to use in humans. They are embarking on a large-scale clinical trial to find out just how well it works in the real world.

Another intriguing approach is to use non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), one of the three principle classes of anti-HIV drugs. Instead of making a pill, the compound would be added to a gel for use as a lubricant and the drug would kill HIV before it had a chance to enter your body.

One particular NNRTI has especially promising anti-HIV activity. Development of the compound was halted years ago when the company learned that the body didn't absorb it very well when taken as a pill. But that very quality of non-absorption is what you want with a microbicide that is supposed to just sit there on the tissue surface and not be absorbed.

Polly Harrison, executive director of the Alliance for Microbicide Development, said that the company that owns the patent to this NNRTI is not interested in developing it as a microbicide. But they have indicated a willingness to donate the patent rights to a nonprofit organization to develop a microbicide. She said that a formal announcement could come shortly.

But the workshop did not focus on specific products; its broader purpose was to set a research agenda for the basic science that must underlie product development. That includes a better understanding of the biology of anal sex and better tests to evaluate how much protection a product offers.

"We don't have the anatomy of sex," lamented San Francisco sexologist Clark Taylor. "Where does semen go? What does a bowel movement [soon after sex] mean for protection?" Without knowing how far semen goes in the rectum and up into the colon, it is impossible to know how much area needs to be protected. The answer affects things as simple as the physical volume of a microbicide product necessary to protect the desired area.

The researchers readily acknowledged that it doesn't matter how effective a microbicide is at killing HIV if it isn't used. Thus they spent a great deal of time reminding each other that it is just as important to focus on the look, feel, smell, and taste of the final product as it is on its power to kill HIV. Taylor urged them to think of developing a microbicide as not just another lubricant, but as an "enhancement" to sex that will both reduce anxiety and increase pleasure.

The first microbicides that become available probably will offer only partial protection against HIV and other STDs. They will be a good complement to condoms, offering added protection if a condom breaks. Perhaps eventually you will be able to rely on just a microbicide for protection, but until that day comes, remember to wear your rubbers. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

New judge hears gay prisoner's parole bid

by Ed Walsh

A Los Angeles judge is expected to decide later this month whether to parole gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz, who has been behind bars since 1985 for killing a former schoolmate who physically attacked him and later outed him to his parents.

The Rosenkrantz case has been tied up in the courts for two years in a battle between Rosenkrantz's attorneys and Governor Gray Davis, who once vowed to stop the parole of all convicted murderers and has twice blocked Rosenkrantz's parole.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathryn Stoltz first ordered Rosenkrantz released in 1999, ruling that he had been unfairly denied parole by the Davis-appointed Board of Prison Terms. Davis defied the court by blocking that parole order later that year. The case eventually went to the Court of Appeals, which strongly endorsed the lower court's opinion that Rosenkrantz should be released. Stoltz ordered

Rosenkrantz paroled again last year but Davis blocked Rosenkrantz's parole last September, on the last day of his 30-day deadline to do so.

Now the case is in the hands of Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Paul Gutman, who first began to hear arguments in the case last month. At a hearing last Thursday, June 7, Gutman promised a quick decision on the case. Don Spector, of the Prison Law Office, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Gutman could decide the case anytime after Wednesday, June 20, after he has received the last of the legal briefs.

Rosenkrantz had just turned 18 in 1985 when he shot and killed Steve Redman, 17. The shooting ended a chain of events that began a week earlier when Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, burst into a graduation party hosted by Rosenkrantz at his family's beach house in Los Angeles County. The pair, armed with a stun gun and a heavy metal flashlight, yelled, "Get the fuck out of here, you faggots!" In the fight that

followed, Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose with the flashlight and Rosenkrantz's hand was burned by the stun gun as he wrestled it out of his brother's hands before he fought back, stinging his brother several times with the gun. Redman later outed Rosenkrantz to his father.

Rosenkrantz denied he was gay and moved out of his family's house after his father told him he would have to leave unless he revealed the names of everyone who attended the party. Rosenkrantz was living out of his car for a week when he approached Redman with an Uzi he had recently purchased and demanded he come with him to his parents' house to take back the outing. Rosenkrantz said he threatened to shoot up Redman's car if he refused. The pair argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times. Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in, was found guilty of second-degree murder, and was sentenced to 17-years-to-life. He has been a model prisoner and has been eligible for parole since 1996. ▼

Hotel queen sued for gay discrimination

by Katie Szymanski

She may act like royalty, but multimillionaire hotel diva Leona Helmsley is no friend of queens, according to a lawsuit filed last week in New York. Charles Bell, a former San Francisco resident who worked as general manager for several months at the Park Lane Hotel in Manhattan, is suing Helmsley for allegedly firing him because he is gay.

The lawsuit, filed this month in the New York State Supreme Court, claims that Bell, 47, was repeatedly praised for his accomplishments since his hiring in November 2000, achievements that included raising employee morale, increasing occupancy rates, upgrading the guest rooms, and establishing a data bank of repeat customers. But his success

was short-lived, the suit alleges, as Bell had to witness firsthand Helmsley's disdain for gays and other minorities. Instances recounted by Bell in the suit include Helmsley's anger that an African American security guard had been posted outside her door; an interrogation by Helmsley about Bell's relationship with another gay employee; and Helmsley's warnings to "stay away from that Miami faggot crowd," in reference to another employee's friends. One day, according to the suit, Helmsley fired an Asian florist, screaming, "You're not even American!" as she pointed her to the door. On two occasions, the suit alleges, Helmsley became enraged at the number of gay guests in her hotel.

Once Bell's sexual orientation was acknowledged, he says, he became the target of harassment and

even an illegal break-in whereby all of the personal belongings in his hotel room were examined. He was terminated in March, but Helmsley herself then allegedly called Bell to beg him to return to work, admitting that his firing had nothing to do with his job performance. Bell is being represented in his suit by the New York firm of Herrick, Feinstein, LLP.

Spokespersons for Helmsley deny any wrongdoing, and have reiterated that the hotel's hiring and firing practices are in compliance with local and state laws.

The lawsuit charges Helmsley with discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; creating a hostile work environment; intentional infliction of emotional distress; slander; and trespassing. Bell is seeking \$10 million, plus punitive damages. ▼

Hera

◀ page 3

Michael Cardoza, an attorney for Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, told the *B.A.R.* that he's also very concerned that the destruction of Hera could hurt the prosecution of the case.

"Do not destroy the dog, that's the bottom line," Cardoza said. "What they would be doing is taking a crucial piece of evidence and destroying it."

"That dog may or may not come into evidence. By that I mean it may or may not be walked in front of a jury, that's not really the issue, because you have to allow the attorneys to litigate that and the judge to make a decision as to what should happen to the dog."

Cardoza said the money should be spent to move Hera to a larger secure facility where she could

have an improved quality of life.

"We are talking about a relatively small amount of money, what is the big deal?" said Cardoza. "Let's use some common sense here. I understand what they're saying, that it's cruel to keep the dog in such conditions, and I don't disagree with that on a humane level, but on the other side weighing that with a horrible, horrible murder that was committed here. We've got to keep this dog alive."

Cardoza added that if Animal Care and Control or the District Attorney's office couldn't budget the money to finance Hera's relocation, then the money could be easily raised privately.

"I would bet that the community that's supporting Diane will support this and say, 'Let's keep this animal alive for evidence,'" Cardoza said.

Cardoza said he believes that


defense lawyers will join with the district attorney's office to oppose the destruction of Hera.

The husband-wife caretakers of the dogs, Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, remain in San Francisco County jail on a combined bail of \$3 million. Noel is being charged with involuntary manslaughter, Knoller with second-degree murder.

Bruce Hotchkiss, the attorney for Robert Noel, told the *B.A.R.* that he is prepared to take up the issue of Hera at Friday's hearing but he declined further comment.

Knoller's attorney, Jan Leckliker, did not return calls seeking comment.

Hera was ordered destroyed in February after a lengthy hearing that included emotional testimony from Noel and Knoller as well as animal control officers and people who had witnessed Hera's behavior. ▼



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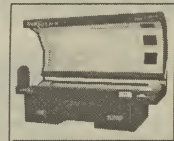
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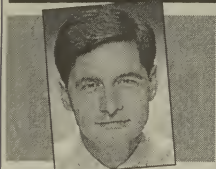
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Washington Blade workers seek to unionize

by Bob Roehr

Employees of the *Washington Blade* may become only the second set of workers at a gay newspaper to join a union, in this case the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, Local 32035. A petition for an election to determine union representation was filed with the National Labor Relations Board on June 1.

Calvin Zon, an employee of the guild, said that the *Blade* employees requested "voluntary recognition" of the union at a May 30 meeting with William Waybourn, president of Window Media, which publishes the *Blade*. Part way through the meeting, when the intent of their requested meeting became clear, "Waybourn held up his arms and said, 'I've heard enough,'" abruptly ending the session. "We interpreted that as a denial," said Zon.

Two days later the guild "petitioned for a NLRB supervised election," he said. NLRB will hold a hearing "probably on June 14" to certify that enough employees have signed cards indicating their interest in union representation.

Labor law requires that a minimum of 30 percent of employees express interest in order to trigger a vote on the question. More than twice that portion has indicated such interest. It seems likely that the NLRB will order a secret ballot vote on union affiliation by *Blade* employees before the end of July.

The law does not allow managerial employees to join the union or be protected by provisions of its contract. Defining which positions constitute man-

agement can be a contentious point. The guild believes that 18 editorial and support personnel at the *Blade* are eligible to vote on the question of representation.

Window Media LLC, which owns gay newspapers in Atlanta and Houston, finalized acquisition of the *Washington Blade* and the *New York Blade News* in late May. Waybourn, who serves as president of the corporation and works in the office of the *Washington Blade*, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

In a written statement released on June 1, Waybourn expressed "disappointment" with the employees' decision to seek union representation. "Even before Window Media purchased the newspaper, we asked the *Blade* employees to let us know about changes they would like to see in the workplace."

Employees of the *Washington Blade*, speaking on background and not for attribution, said that sale of the newspaper to Window Media stimulated thinking on their part.

In both a statement released by the guild and in conversations, the employees welcomed Window Media's ownership and their commitment to build a thriving professional journalistic enterprise. They saw joining the guild as a parallel evolution "to better meet the challenges of a changing workplace environment through a more professional, business-oriented framework."

While weekly newspapers are known to pay poorly, the de facto profit sharing that previous majority owner Don Michael instituted gave much credibility to the *Blade's* catch phrase "employee-owned newspaper." Window

Media has given no assurance that profit sharing will continue.

Rumors have circulated that one of the ways the new owners intend to pay for their acquisition is by cutting costs, specifically the salaries of longtime employees of the *Blade*, replacing them with less experienced personnel. Absent a contract, employees do not have protection from being fired arbitrarily.

Most mainstream media operations have profit targets of 20-30 percent return on investment. Many in the newspaper industry are greatly concerned by recent slashing of budgets and staff positions in an attempt to meet higher earnings targets. Guild members have administrative protections and "buy out" provisions in their contracts; current employees of Window Media do not.

One secondhand account, which has not been verified by a second source, had Waybourn "promoting" two employees to management positions after learning of the unionizing effort. Promotion would remove those employees from participating in the guild. They would not be protected under any union contract and therefore could be fired at will.

It is unclear whether these "promotions" would constitute management positions under NLRB regulations or if Waybourn's actions would constitute tampering with union organizing efforts.

Employees of the *New York Blade News* are also considering seeking union recognition. The situation with that publication is precarious as it has never been profitable but has been subsidized on a limited basis by the Washington operation. ▼

HRC launches a boycott of Exxon Mobil

by Bob Roehr

The Human Rights Campaign launched a boycott of the petroleum mega-corporation Exxon Mobil through a telephone news conference with reporters on Tuesday, June 12 and a photo opportunity version of the event on June 13. Its theme is "Don't Fuel Discrimination."

Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said that Exxon Mobil was "the first company to rescind progressive policies for gay and lesbian employees." The Mobil Corporation had adopted both workplace protection and domestic partner benefits for its gay and lesbian employees, but Exxon had not.

Exxon purchased Mobil in December 1999. It decided to scrap Mobil's human resources policies protecting gay employees and to limit domestic partner benefits to those already enrolled in the program.

Gay employees of the company and organizations such as HRC tried to work with the merged behemoth to maintain the pro-gay policies. The Equality Project pushed the issue of non-discrimination through a shareholder resolution at the company's annual

meeting, gaining more than 3 percent of the vote in 1999, and 8.3 and 13 percent in succeeding years. Pension funds increasingly have supported the effort.

Exxon Mobil "stands out like a sore thumb within their own industry," said Birch, ticking off the oil companies that protect gay employees. More than half of the Fortune 500 companies have adopted gay inclusive non-discrimination personnel policies. She called Exxon Mobil "a leader in marginalizing its own gay and lesbian employees, and in stonewalling gay and lesbian consumers and shareholders. We are saddened that we have to take these steps."

Birch is asking the community to stop patronizing the company's gas stations and convenience stores; cut up their credit cards and "Speedpasses," mailing half to HRC and half to the company; write the company in protest; send HRC a month's worth of receipts of gas purchased from other companies; and use any company stock they might own to push for change.

Birch admitted that boycotts seldom succeed in exerting significant financial pressure on the target. She said HRC's boycott was called more "to raise the consciousness of a corporation and the American public

in general. [The tactic] should be rarely and judiciously used." This is the first boycott that HRC has initiated, though it did support a boycott of United Airlines organized in San Francisco.

The boycott will continue until the company adds a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation; it does not include resurrection of domestic partner benefits. Birch said, "Boycotts have to be crisp and clear. ... If they come to see the error of their ways [on policy], they are bound to see that the second-best business practice is to also include domestic partner coverage."

HRC "is going to work with our civil rights coalition partners as part of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights," as well as use the Internet to carry out the boycott, she said. Little of this work had been done prior to the news conference. Birch said, "We'd like to get the announcement out and then hopefully garner support."

There are currently no plans for advertising in the mainstream media, such as HRC has done in the past in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, she said, "But we always pray for angel donors."

Details of the boycott are at www.equalityatexxon.org. ▼

Pot raises heart attack risk, study says

by Kurt Samson,
UPI Medical Writer

Air pollution and smoking marijuana both temporarily increase heart attack risk in persons with cardiovascular disease, researchers reported Monday, June 11.

Baby boomers' heart attack risk increases almost five times within one hour after smoking marijuana, especially if they have other cardiovascular risk factors, said Dr. Murray Mittleman, director of cardiovascular surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard University in Boston. "People who have heart attacks triggered by smoking marijuana almost certainly have a heart condition, which they may not be aware of, that predisposes them to having a heart attack," he told United Press International.

"As baby boomers enter the age at which coronary disease is the most important cause of death and the leading cause of morbidity, we may see an increase in marijuana-associated heart attacks," Mittleman added. "In the debate about medicinal use, marijuana may be contraindicated for people with existing coronary disease."

For an hour after smoking marijuana, the likelihood of having a heart attack is four and a half times greater than if the person hadn't smoked, he found. However, by the second hour the risk is 1.7 times greater. After two hours,

the risk is normal. As part of the eight-year multicenter Determinants of Myocardial Infarction Onset Study, Mittleman and other researchers interviewed 3,882 heart attack patients between the ages of 20 and 92 years about a number of factors including drug use. Twenty-three percent of marijuana smokers were between the ages of 50 and 69 years. Many of

pecially in people with unrecognized coronary disease."

He noted that marijuana was less dangerous than cocaine for people with heart disease — about as risky as taking a walk for an active person with heart disease, or sex for a sedentary patient.

"All medicines have harmful side effects," said Robert Kampia, executive director of the Marijuana

"All medicines have harmful side effects ... If your heart is so bad that you shouldn't even walk up the stairs, you probably also should not use marijuana."

these had smoked pot at least once over the previous 12 months, but among nine patients who had smoked within an hour before their heart attack, relative risk was nearly five times higher than for those who had never used the drug.

The findings are published in the June 12 issue of the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*. "Smoking marijuana increases the heart rate by about 40 beats per minute," Mittleman said. "It also causes the blood pressure to increase when the person is lying down, and then abruptly falls when the person stands up, often causing dizziness. These effects may pose significant risk, es-

pecially in people with unrecognized coronary disease."

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"All medicines have harmful side effects," said Robert Kampia, executive director of the Marijuana

temporarily increases heart attack risk for at least two hours. Risk was even greater in patients with other heart risk factors, the researchers found in interviewing 722 people admitted to Boston hospitals after a heart attack.

At the same time they measured pollution levels, including fine particulates less than five millionths of an inch in diameter, at five sites. Heart attacks increased by 50 percent within two hours after exposure to high levels of fine particulates, and resulted in a delayed response within 24 hours. It's estimated the number of heart-disease deaths due to air pollution ranges from 1,000 to as many as 10,000 each year nationally. This is the first study to confirm short-term heart risk from particulate exposure, Mittleman said.

Scientists believe fine particulates penetrate the lungs' air sacs and trigger an inflammatory response in the lungs, followed by systemic inflammation. Systemic inflammatory response releases

proteins into the bloodstream that are associated with increased risk of heart attack. Exposure to air pollution also increases the risk of blood clotting and impeded blood flow to the heart.

"This is another reason for people with heart disease to stay indoors when air quality is poor, especially during hot, hazy, and humid summer afternoons," he said.

P. Barry Ryan, a professor of environmental exposures and chemistry at Emory University in Atlanta, told UPI the study is the first large-scale examination of particulate exposure and heart attack risk, but that other studies are under way in Atlanta and Los Angeles. "This work is yielding pertinent information for the study of health effects of air pollution on persons with different disease conditions, including heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease," Ryan said. "We're finding similar data from people in cities all over the country." ▼

DP bill

◀ page 1

"AB25 in the Senate should be much easier," Harris said. "We say to them, you don't have to be nervous this time, we're going to get the bill to the governor's desk, and we have very strong hopes he's going to sign it intact."

Harris noted that Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, the powerful San Francisco lawmaker, is a co-author on Migden's bill. State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), a lesbian, is a co-sponsor.

Minority targets

AB25 ran into strong opposition from the Campaign for California Families, an anti-gay group run by hyper-conservative Randy Thomasson, its executive director. According to CAPE, which claims 250,000 donors, supporters, or volunteers, the conservative Christian-oriented CCF ran an expensive advertising campaign that targeted minority members of the state Legislature.

"This small group will do anything it can to deny lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Californians basic rights and protections," Harris said. "They attempted to scare members of the California Legislature using discriminatory rhetoric and bullying tactics, but it did not work."

Astacaan said the attack ads had run in the *San Jose Mercury News*, as well as smaller papers including publications in Spanish. Some can be seen on CCF's Web site, savecalifornia.com.

"There were 17 or so Assembly members targeted on the Campaign for California Families Web site," Astacaan added. "Only two were non-minorities. And one of those was [Assembly member] Joseph Canciamilla."

Democrat Canciamilla, who

represents portions of Contra Costa County, told the *B.A.R.* that he had been targeted by name in direct mail fliers and in television ads. He said, referring to a flier, that the basic message was that AB25 "undermines Proposition 22. The targeted legislator is undermining marriage ... and overturning the family system."

He quoted the ad: "Please don't let Assembly Member (fill in the blank) overturn our vote (on Prop. 22); tell him to oppose AB25."

The flier was signed "Paid for as a public service message by the Campaign for California Families," he said, and it referred readers to the Web site.

The lawmaker said he and his staff had been trying to figure out why he had been targeted, since other targeted colleagues were either Latino, African American, or representatives in very marginal, competitive districts. His e-mail and letters ran about "half a ton for, half a ton against."

"So the only thing we could figure out was they thought I was Hispanic," said Canciamilla, who is of Italian descent.

"I thought the advertising was a foolish attempt to strong-arm people and, for me, it didn't help to convince me of the righteousness of their cause."

"I've been threatened by better groups than this."

Toilet trouble

CAPE's Harris, warming to her subject, snorted at CCF's tactics. "They're 50 silly people flushing thousands and thousands of dollars down the toilet. We're going to go out and make sure people in the districts [of pro-AB25 members] know we stand firmly behind the members...."

"I'm not going to allow the campaign to bullshit, bullshit, bullshit. Actually, they did a better job pissing off the Assembly members than we could have." ▼

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Trying to get the governor's ear



Survive AIDS' Michael Lauro, right, was hauled away by security personnel after he showed up with a sign saying, "Hey Gray, Read This" during a reading awards ceremony attended by Governor Gray Davis June 7 for students at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy. Lauro was calling on Davis to restore funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and other services. He was not arrested during the brief incident.

Drug-resistant HIV wimpier than thought

by Jeff Getty, *Survive AIDS Writers' Pool*

Last week, the David J. Gladstone Institute (affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco), published a paper in *Nature Medicine* indicating drug-resistant HIV is less harmful to the immune system and the thymus than untreated virus.

"Though the drugs don't eradicate the virus, they're effective in treating the disease because they produce drug-resistant virus, which appears to be much less capable of causing damage to the thymus," said Dr. Mike McCune, an investigator who worked on the study. The news follows similar findings from nearly a year ago when UCSF's Dr. Steven Deeks reported less clinical progression and higher T-cells in patients with protease inhibitor drug-resistant virus. Taken together, these findings indicate that patients who have run out of options should still consider continuing HIV therapies, even when they don't appear to be keeping virus level low.

The Gladstone Institute has been a leading research site focusing on HIV patients' thymuses and disease progression since the early 1990s. Earlier papers from Gladstone also showed that the thymus in HIV-infected folks was not showing as much damage as might have been expected. All this is good news to long-term survivors who have exhausted all 15 approved anti-HIV drugs and live with high levels of HIV circulating in their bodies. Also these findings may shed light on why the death rate has remained low, even through apparent HIV drug failure. Undetectable viral levels may be optimal to achieve, but they are often not attainable.

The Gladstone study indicated that protease inhibitor-resistant virus was deemed less destructive to the thymus. Longtime HIV-treating physicians have suspected that maintaining resistant virus at higher levels was better than having patients go off drugs altogether

er — with HIV returning to untreated or wild strain virus.

"I urge my patients to stay on maximal therapy even in the presence of high viral loads. I am delighted to see Dr. McCune now showing proof of what those of us in the trenches have been sure of," said Dr. Mary Romayne, a San Francisco HIV practitioner. It follows that patients who are multi-drug-resistant should consider continuing to treat while finding the least harmful drug combinations. With the new findings, treatment regimes should also maintain protease inhibitor resistance in order to protect the thymus and immunity.

Scientists also indicated that the less destructive virus might help keep T-cells from falling as well. "Just because they have high viral loads and drug-resistant virus, doesn't mean their T-cell counts are going to plummet," said the paper's lead author, Cheryl Stoddart, Ph.D. That's because the

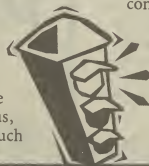
non-drug-resistant and drug-resistant virus into human thymus which was then implanted into mice. Weeks later, the non-drug-resistant virus grew substantially and began depleting the thymus of its cells. Drug-resistant virus, on the other hand, barely replicated and did not tamper with the thymus cells.

"The difference in the way the thymus grew could not be more extreme," said Stoddart.

In another experiment, researchers added virus directly to human thymus cell cultures. Viral replication was measured and results indicated that whereas many cells were infected by the non-drug-resistant virus, far fewer were infected by the drug-resistant strains. In actual virus isolates taken from patients, 12 times fewer thymus cells became infected with drug-resistant virus than untreated virus.

Finally, researchers scanned 14 HIV-positive patients to see how their thymuses were holding up. Many patients with protease resistant virus had more abundant thymus than would have been expected in people their age. It seems that just as with certain other body parts, a more abundant thymus is thought to be more beneficial than a less abundant one. Unfortunately the report also indicated that patients with resistant virus had no guarantee of a good, functional thymus either.

Given the new findings, will the body now be able to live into old age with high viral levels and multiple drug therapies? This question is still unanswered and is the primary challenge facing the advanced AIDS patient today. Maintaining protease inhibitor resistance does not necessarily mean staying on a protease inhibitor indefinitely either. Viral phenotypes show protease resistance long after drug cessation. Perhaps now researchers may be able to recommend less toxic drug combinations and interruptions for long-term immune maintenance and side effect management. We await these recommendations. Still, the news is hopeful — for a change. Such treatment refinements are long overdue for late-stage AIDS patients given the lack of effective new anti-HIV drugs in the pipeline. ▼



Survive AIDS



Cheryl Stoddart

study showed that protease inhibitor-resistant HIV was less likely to infect the thymus, which produces disease-fighting T-cells. The first clues to the new findings came when researchers discovered that drug-resistant HIV did not replicate as well in various cells. The new research shows that this impairment is much greater when it comes to thymus cells.

In the study, Stoddart and her research team inoculated both

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Bob Basker

1918 — 2001



Bob Basker died April 6, 2001 at the Jewish Home in San Francisco. He was 82. Bob's charm, humor and dedication endeared him to the many people who knew him.

Bob was a life-long community activist. Born and raised in an Orthodox Jewish home, he became politically active in the student peace movement of the 1930s. In the 1940s, he joined the Army and fought in World War II against Fascism.

He earned his living as a salesman for *Encyclopedia Britannica*. In recent years he was employed by the S.F. District Attorney's office.

Bob's true calling was as a political activist, working tirelessly for those he saw as disenfranchised. He was in the forefront of many movements working for political and social change. For example, in 1965 he co-founded Mattachine Midwest, one of the first homosexual rights organizations. He continued his work in gay rights throughout his life and was very active in the struggle against Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign in Miami.

Bob was also active in the civil rights movement. In 1961 he was responsible for securing a home for the first black family in the all-white suburb of Skokie, Illinois, which was instrumental in the struggle for integrated housing.

One of Bob's unique contributions was his special talent for forming coalitions between organizations. To this end, he was active in the progressive

wing of the Democratic Party, as well as fighting for civil liberties, prisoner's rights, legalizing medical use of marijuana, and other causes. He also served on the boards of In-Home Supportive Services, the Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post (a gay veterans organization), and the San Francisco chapters of the National Organization for Women and the NAACP.

In addition to his political work, Bob took great joy in attending cultural events such as the opera and ballet. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his children Paul, Melinda, and Wayne Basker, his granddaughters Nina and Hannah, and eight nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of Bob's life on Sunday, July 1 at 2 p.m. in Room 207 of the War Memorial Veteran's Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. at McAllister St., San Francisco. For more information, or to RSVP, call (415) 552-1211. Donations to honor Bob's life may be made to Project Open Hand, P.O. Box 642910, San Francisco, CA 94164, or to the organization that best reflects your relationship with him.

Robert B. Hays



Robert B. Hays, Ph.D., native of the San Francisco Bay Area, passed away on May 30, 2001 at the age of 46. Beloved son of Irene Hays of Santa Rosa, California and Samuel Hays of El Portal, California, both formerly of San Francisco.

Beloved brother of Samuel Hays of El Portal; John Hays and Sally Payson Hays, Ph.D. of San Francisco; Susan Hays Meredith of Mt. Shasta; Katharine Hays of Santa Rosa; and Margaret Hays of Mt. Shasta. Beloved uncle of Justin and Joseph Meredith of Mt. Shasta; Riana Hays of Mt. Shasta; and Nemo and Zante Hays of San Francisco. Beloved friend and colleague of many people in the gay and AIDS communities around the U.S.

Bob graduated from Carlmont High School in Belmont, California, class of 1972. He attended college at the University of California, Berkeley and graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Psychology with Departmental Honors and Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College. He received his Master's degree and Doctorate in Social Psychology at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Utah. Subsequently, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin and at George Washington University in the District of Columbia. As the AIDS epidemic intensified, and he lost many friends, he felt the need to return to San Francisco to con-

duct HIV prevention research among gay men, his community. Thus, he joined the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California in 1988 where he was a Research Psychologist until his death from AIDS.

Bob dedicated most of his adult life to fighting HIV/AIDS among gay men. He was a soft-spoken, brilliant man with a wonderful sense of humor. He considered himself an activist as well as a scientist. He was also an artist. Even as he became ill, he volunteered his time and effort to Stop AIDS to develop an HIV prevention program for men living with HIV/AIDS. Bob loved San Francisco and living with his community in the Castro at his wonderful Victorian home. As he became ill, his mother and his sister Susan lovingly cared for him.

A memorial celebration of Bob's life is planned for June 30, 2001. Time and place is yet to be determined. Please call (415) 597-9306 for memorial information. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Stop AIDS, 2128 15th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Harold Jacob Little

August 10, 1961 — June 1, 2001



Cherished Western Star Dancer and board member Harold Jacob Little left us early Friday morning, June 1 at home with his loving partner Alan. Harold was suffering from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He is survived by stepchild, AJ; kitties, Raymond and Mama; aunts, Genova Little and Irma Coen; and brother, Joe.

Harold was born in Baltimore, Maryland, where he earned a degree in business management. In 1989 he moved to San Francisco and worked at Cole Hardware and the coat check at the Rawhide. Harold was active in the leather community and was a devoted member of SKiNs. He promoted and happily participated in Peel-Off Palm Springs and volunteered as a care giver with Most Holy Redeemer's AIDS Program.

Harold will be sorely missed for his fabulous ability to tease, his great sense of humor, kindness, thoughtfulness, and his incredible generosity. He loved to share his joy of dancing, the theatre and music with all those who were lucky enough to know him.

A memorial, healing circle and square dance will be held August 4 at Most Holy Redeemer, Ellard Hall, 7-11 p.m.

To celebrate Harold's life, friends may contribute to have his name engraved in the Circle of Friends at the National AIDS Memorial Grove. Please contact Alan Turpen at (415) 431-7420 for info.



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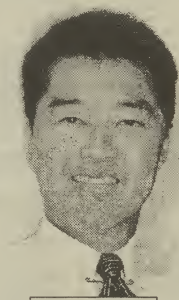
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Pride events

◀ page 1

on Saturday, June 23, from 7 to 10:30 a.m. A dedication ceremony will follow at 11 a.m.

Volunteers are encouraged to wear casual clothing and shoes that work well on a steep hill. They should also bring a hammer so they can drive in the nails.

The best way to reach the site is to drive up 17th Street and turn left on Clayton, then make an immediate right onto Twin Peaks Boulevard. Twin Peaks Boulevard makes a sharp left after about a quarter of a mile, otherwise if you drive straight it becomes Clarendon. Don't go on Clarendon. Follow the curvy Twin Peaks Boulevard all the way to the top and there is an entrance to the parking lot which is called Christmas Tree Lane. As you drive up the hill you will see the progress of the Pink Triangle installation so you will know exactly where to go. Park in the tourist parking lot.

The Lesbian Gay Freedom Band will be at the installation to provide entertainment as volunteers work. Refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Carney at (415) 247-1142.

Ladies first

In this gender-bent capital of the country, "all women" means many things these days, and they

are all welcome at the ninth annual San Francisco Dyke March, the nation's largest grassroots gathering and the city's Pride "kickoff" event that signals the beginning of political expression and debauchery.

The Dyke March is Saturday, June 23, beginning with a rally in Dolores Park and culminating with the no-permit takeover of the streets at 7:45 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for various aspects of the march, which includes a performance stage and T-shirt stand at the park, not to mention an after-march deejay booth in the Castro.

For more information, call (415) 241-8882. The official Web site detailing the programs for marches around the country is at www.dykemarch.org.

Blush

Although they are separate events, the Dyke March and the unofficial "Pink Saturday" party in the Castro have become interdependent; do the topless girls create the sordid co-ed after-environment, or do they march toward their pornographic future? It's probably a bit of both.

Regardless, the traditional street party needs volunteers to ensure the safety and fun of its participants. Donating your time will not only make you the life of the party, but can benefit local nonprofit groups as well. However, because this party is still con-

sidered spontaneous, details remain elusive. E-mail PinkIndulgence@yahoo.com for more information and to sign up for shifts.

Swell with pride

Not to be overlooked, of course, is the weekend's main event: the 31st annual LGBT Pride Parade and celebration.

"Everything is going very smoothly," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "We're looking forward to a fantastic weekend."

But the weekend still needs your help in order to be pulled off without a hitch. There are still many ways that people can become involved; from managing an entertainment stage, to acting as a safety monitor, each volunteer gig has its bonuses. Additionally, many local nonprofits – from the AIDS Emergency Fund (415-558-6892) to Pets Are Wonderful Support (415-241-1473) will earn a portion of Pride profits for supplying volunteers. Call your favorite organization to see if you can be of assistance.

To find out what opportunities are available, visit the Pride Web site at www.sfpide.org. A link at the top right-hand corner of the home page directs visitors to job descriptions and walks them through the volunteer process.

"We are always in need of people," said Witherington. "Our community makes it all possible." ▼

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Cinesport

by Jim Provenzano

For some, their first baseball movie proved inspirational. For others, their first gay movies proved positively blissful.

In these of subgenres, we can now ask, "What's your favorite gay sports movie?"

Not all are overtly gay, but I'm sure a single rental of *The Olympics 2000 Official Commemorative Video*, *Girlfight*, or *The World's Greatest Athlete* will provide some queer interest while we all wait for *The Front Runner* to brighten a cineplex near you.

Until then, the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 25th anniversary, running June 14-24 at several theaters in town, offers more than a few athletic acts on film and video.

Adventures of Felix (June 19, Castro Theatre, 9:30 p.m.) follows a handsome French-Arab ferryman on a Homeric bike trek through the beautiful countryside of France. In every town where he stops, Felix encounters interesting people, and a more than welcoming "family" at his road's end.

"Body of Evidence" (June 16, Roxie Theatre, 1:30 p.m.), an afternoon of short films, explores our relationship to our bodies, in-

cluding a swimmer uncovering a strange new truth about himself in *Benediction*.

Bykes (June 19 2 p.m., Castro Theatre and June 23 1:30 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre) is chockfull of two-wheeled lesbians, and we're not talking about the motorcycle contingent at the Pride Parade.

Both *Bykes* and *Hardihood*, also playing, show the behind-the-scenes action of women's downhill bike racing, including lesbian World Champion Mountain Biker Missy Giove. Other interviews with members of WOMBATS (Women's Mountain Bike & Tea Society) show a dedicated,

passionate crew of women overcoming all sorts of obstacles, not only on the road.

"Dyke Delights" (June 23, 1 p.m. Castro Theatre), a collection of lesbian shorts, includes *Martino*, the story of a young female trapeze artist forced to marry a male trapeze artist despite her secret desires.

For a girthful take on lookism and body image, "Fat Boy Chronicles" (June 23 6 p.m., Victoria Theatre) collects three longer shorts that explore cinematic and pop culture representation of chubby kids in more ways than the "Husky" section of the Sears catalog.



Bike dykes and Ghi girls: Missy Giove in *Bykes* and *Fists of Fury*, two sporty cinematic offerings from the Frameline Fest.

Hunky Swedish gay Olympic diver Jimmy Sjodin (who did not qualify for the 2000 Olympics) plays one of the cast members in the *Real-World*-esque *On the Bus* (June 22 6:30 p.m., Herbst Theatre), where a cluster of dudes RV off to the 2000 Burning Man Festival for love and lust amid the playa dust. Hopefully more than Jimmy's tattoos and a lot of exploding art will be revealed.

"Fists of Fury" (June 15, 6 p.m., Victoria Theatre) shows three films, *Granite Janet*, *The Rose and the Thorn*, and *Women of Color in the Martial Arts and Self Defense*. Each film examines an aspect of the martial arts community's most amazing athletes, from boxers to recreational self-defense students finding a renewed inner strength through their training.

"Steers & Queers" (June 19, 8:15 p.m., Roxie Cinema) corrals five funny, frank films about rodeos, and the gay and lesbian folk who grew up to be cowboys – and girls.

The funniest, most fabulous feature to take on athletic homophobia is *Iron Ladies (Satree Iex)* (June 17 9 p.m., Castro Theatre), a frothy comedy with some good-natured lessons. It's based on the real life story of the Iron Ladies, the Thailand team of mostly gay men and transgenders who led their team to regional victory against other teams. They eventually won national acclaim due to their fabulous on-court presence.

The light-hearted film became the second highest grossing Thai film ever. It's no wonder. With a gorgeous cast, an affable style that's both high camp and serious message, this is truly a family movie. The enlisting of new members with various lives is somewhat like *The Magnificent Seven* channeled through the Piedmont drag shop, and the queen preening gets a bit much after the umpteenth nail is broken, but hey, how many other transgender volleyball movies are out there?

Last, and maybe least, unless you love the lowball camp of John Waters and the late Paul Bartel, *Play Dead* (June 22, 10:30 p.m. Castro Theatre) involves the corpse of a high school wrestler, and one obsessed gay teenager's affair with him/it.

For more info on films and tickets, visit <http://www.frameline.org/festival>. Good luck get-

ting tickets, which can be a marathon session of its own.

For more info on cute dead wrestlers, visit <http://www.myrmidume.com>.

Stow it

Between all these cinematic sporty selections, several upcoming athlete-aramas will be presented in 3D, the kind that don't need those funny cardboard glasses:

Saturday, June 23, from 9 a.m. to noon, the annual run-a-thon, SF FrontRunners Pride Run, will be packed with visiting and local GLBT runners in both the 5K and 10K course.

Start and finish are at the Stow Lake Boathouse off Kennedy Drive in ever so scenic Golden Gate Park. Satisfy your carb craving afterward at the annual pot luck picnic at the picnic area by the Stow Lake Boat House.

Registration forms and much more info are available at: www.sffrontrunners.com.

Nobody doesn't like Serra League

Ever since the evil conglomerate Kintetsu destroyed their under-valued property where Japantown Bowl's presence stood as the largest of city lanes and a great crossroads of cultures, many leagues have been forced to find other grooves to roll their balls.

"The gay leagues are scattered around now, so the bowling centers are not advertising in the gay publications the way Japantown Bowl did," noted Carol Hull, league president of the new Serra Bowl. "Every league seems to be on a different schedule, but we are about to start a new season on Wednesday nights."

Yep, big balls keep on rollin' so Proud Mary keeps on bowlin'.

Wednesday Community League at Serra Bowl starts July 11 and bowls every Wednesday through October 24. Practices start at 7:20 p.m. Cost is \$14 per week, plus purchase of ABC or WIBC membership card. Serra Bowl is a very short walk from the Daly City BART station, and an easy exit off the 280 freeway.

"This is a mixed lesbian and gay league and we have a lot of fun together," said Hull.

With four bowlers per team, the socialization factor is squared. If you can't wrangle up three pals to head off to Serra Bowl, remind

them of the Serramonte Mall.

"We can help put together teams if you don't have four people," said Hull. "Last season we had 16 teams."

Let's see, that adds up to bowls full of fun!

More info? Contact: Carol Hull, league president, at (415) 864-4467 or at carolhull@yahoo.com.

Off to the track

San Francisco Track & Field Club's first meet of the 2001 season ended with outstanding results.

At U.C. Berkeley on June 3, a group of seven San Francisco Track & Field Club members competed at Edwards Stadium and came away with eight gold medals and some outstanding early season marks, according to team rep Rich Thoman.

"Allen Eggman led the way with gold medal marks in the discus and high jump, and as well as a silver in the shot put, and a fine performance in the 100 meter dash."

Newcomers Edward Joaquin in the sprints and Ross Hayduk in the shot put and discus both turned in outstanding marks in their debut as San Francisco T&F club members.

Other teammates turning in fine performances included Brian Mutert (high jump), Trevor Bougouneau (800 & 400 meters), Jim Pasquali (100 meters), and Thoman (200 meters and shot put).

The team competed again on Saturday, June 9 in Los Gatos.

If you're looking for some summer impulse buys, visit the garage sale fundraiser they'll be having this Saturday, June 16. It's at 4056 18th Street and across the street from the Jaguar bookstore in the Castro.

"We're trying to raise money for our trip to the Sydney Gay Games to represent San Francisco as defending champions in track and field," said Thoman.

The track club welcomes new members and donations throughout the year. For more information, contact Rich Thoman at (415) 550-7966, or Marcus Valera (415) 564-1578.

March madness

Team San Francisco is in position 32 for the 2001 Pride Parade. "This is toward the front!" organizers happily announced. March and show your pride with your sports clubs. Wanna be more jocular for Pride? Be a Team SF member or join up fast. For info, e-mail info@teamsf.org.

The parade starts at 10:30 a.m. at Market and Beale on Sunday June 24. Wear medals from previous games. But a warning about those Dutch ones, which must be filled with lead. Don't bend over while wearing even one. They'll thwap you in the forehead and knock you cold! ▼

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Monterey Pride

◀ page 2

Down in Monterey, the sixth annual Pride Festival will feature local bands, food, and carnival games. This year's theme is "Embrace Diversity."

The event takes place at the Monterey County Fairgrounds' Garden Stage, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Admission is \$2 in advance or \$3 at the gate. Organizers expect 500 people will attend the event.

Musical guests include The Temper Mental, MoonLife, and the

Lisa Dewey Band. Serving as emcee will be Ineeda Richman, one of the area's hottest drag queens.

The event in Monterey will celebrate several recent milestones for the larger LGBT community. Last November's elections seated a record number of openly gay candidates in offices from Congress to state legislatures to school boards to city councils. In February, voters in Paris, France elected openly gay Bertrand Delanoë mayor, and in April the first legally recognized same-sex marriages took place in the Netherlands.

For directions to the fairgrounds, call (831) 372-5863. ▼

Club Townsend

◀ page 4

permit to operate a club. Meyer said she didn't know what was done to verify Joseph's applications because she wasn't working in her position when the applications were filed.

In his court filings, Goodfellow appears to be zeroing in on Joseph as the architect of a policy that he alleges put club patrons at risk by making employees very reluctant to call 911. Both Morris and club security guard Richard Maloney testified that at the time of Goring's death, there was a policy not to call 911 under any circumstances without the approval of a manager. Maloney, who still works at the club, said the policy is still in effect.

Maloney told the B.A.R. last week that he did everything he could to save Goring's life. Maloney said that after Goring collapsed, he performed CPR on him. Maloney said he realized at the time that by doing CPR he would subject himself to a risk of contracting hepatitis or other diseases but he wanted to do whatever he could to help save Goring.

Maloney said he cried during his deposition out of sympathy for Goring after he was repeatedly "badgered" by Goodfellow. Maloney said he was also upset that Goodfellow had suggested to him during his deposition that he could face homicide charges.

Goodfellow denied he badgered Maloney and commended him for his efforts.

"Richard Maloney valiantly tried to use his training in basic life support to assist Mr. Goring but that effort did not obviate the club's duty to immediately call 911," said Goodfellow. "Maloney himself, according to his testimony,

was prevented from making that call even though he wanted to and even though his CPR training told him he had to call paramedics right away. But the policy prevented him from making that call."

According to deposition transcripts, Goodfellow suggested to both Maloney and Morris that they could be subjected to homicide charges. Two legal experts consulted by the B.A.R. gave very different opinions on whether the actions of the club warranted a homicide investigation.

The dean of the Golden Gate University Law School, and former public defender, Peter Keane, said that although it appears there is a strong case for wrongful death, he didn't think the allegations warranted a criminal prosecution. Keane suggested that prosecutors could be charged with misconduct if they tried to prosecute Joseph or other club managers on homicide charges.

But an expert on criminal law at Hastings Law School, Professor John Diamond, said the case deserved to be investigated as a crime because of the level of "gross negligence" allegedly demonstrated by the club. Diamond also brought up the suit's claim that a physician witness was led to believe by a club employee that 911 was called when it wasn't. Diamond said that might have preempted the doctor from summoning help on his own, further adding to negligence in the case. Diamond said there are some parallels that the Goring case shares with the highly publicized Diane Whipple dog mauling case, in which the caretakers of the dogs were charged with involuntary manslaughter and second-degree murder for what prosecutors allege was a level of gross negligence in setting up a circumstance which resulted in death. ▼

TIC limits

◀ page 5

TICs will now fall under the condo conversion laws.

Gustavo Serina, corresponding secretary of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, which fought against TIC regulation, told the B.A.R.: "The EVPA membership is disappointed in the vote, which will undoubtedly result in a flurry of lawsuits. Those lawsuits are likely to prevail."

Of amendments to the bill aimed at mollifying homeowners, Serina said, "None of that will work if the legislation is thrown out in court."

Haaland, on the other hand, called TICs a "really bad way to own property" because of the danger of one party defaulting on the mortgage, which would leave co-tenants holding the bag. Haaland offered his views on the legislation's effect on San Francisco's grim housing market:

"In effect, lots of these units are owner-occupied," he said, "and

thus the tenants have already been evicted. Those units are now off the market as far as rental housing is concerned. One of the downfalls [of the new ordinance] is that through condo conversion, a huge lump of TICs won't be covered by rent control."

"If you are in a TIC, and you decide you want to move and rent out, those units are not covered by rent control."

Haaland added that he believed McGoldrick made a good-faith effort to balance the demands of both sides, trying to recognize the needs of those wanting to become homeowners and also trying to stop the evictions by real estate speculators.

Other changes via amendment affect four-unit buildings. Previously under McGoldrick's bill, two of four tenants needed to okay plans for condo conversion. Now, only one resident would have to favor conversion.

Those who do not want to buy their units are to be offered lifetime leases under the new law. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248962

The following person(s) are doing business as: Payless Moving And Hauling, 3068 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Onkar Gulsain. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/16/01.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248918

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Production, Girl Party, Babe, Leather -N- Lace, 119 1/2 Park Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Susan A. McKenna. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/17/01.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248941

The following person(s) are doing business as: Intellifac Research, 10 Lupine Avenue #13, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lawrence Manuel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 240886

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Virtual Assistants Network. Located at: 242 Cayuga Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: May 19, 2000.

This business was conducted by: a General Partnership signed: Lloyd D. Haddad

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321985

In the Matter of the Application of Sharon Ng Hashimoto. For change of Name. The applicant, Sharon Ng Hashimoto, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sharon Ann Ng. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321313

In the Matter of the Application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of Name. The application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that George Michael Reyes, Jr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Blythe Bastien Kahili. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321699

In the Matter of the Application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of Name. The application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikaela Earline Arroyo. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249087

The following person(s) are doing business as: Austin-Porter, Attorneys At Law, 584 Castro Street #273, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Partnership signed: Alison Austin and La Cheryl Porter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, April 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/21/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248927

The following person(s) are doing business as: Image In The Mind, Odd Objects, 317 Harriet Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrea D. Elling. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320978

In the Matter of the Application of Kimberly N. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isiah Shaheen Lane for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kimberly N. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isiah Shaheen Lane has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to KeAndre Isiah Shaheen Hicks. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249020

The following person(s) are doing business as: Plan It SF, 108 Lower Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas Jay Berou. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 22, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248804

The following person(s) are doing business as: AS Group, 444 Clementina Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Alex Gong, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 11, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249009

The following person(s) are doing business as: Abel Marketing, 1657 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed David L. Wabel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 22, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/01.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249166

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bill's Kitchen & Teripaki, 475 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Kin Bun Lam and Dina Lam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 28, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/30/01.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249185

The following person(s) are doing business as: Systems Innovation, 16 Cordova Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jovette Bandalan-President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 30, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/30/01.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321699

In the Matter of the Application of Michael Gruebel. For change of Name. The application of Michael Gruebel for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michael Gruebel has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Angela Michaels Barrett. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249392

The following person(s) are doing business as: Soo Gee International Productions, 160 Madrone Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sugimasa Yamashita. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 243427

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Systems Innovation. Located at: 16 Cordova Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 9/12/2000.

This business was conducted by: a individual: Jovette Bandalan

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249458

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden State T & T Enterprises, 1231 26th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Victoria Tavrovsky, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 7, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/08/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249152

The following person(s) are doing business as: Urban Arrangement, 1594 Market Street Ste. 514, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Steban Guevara and David J. Guevara. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 29, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249431

The following person(s) are doing business as: Papa Toby's Revolution Cafe * Art Bar, 3248 22nd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Terry Chastain and Daniel R. Scriver. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/07/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249330

The following person(s) are doing business as: Laguna Apartments, 1215 Laguna Street #402, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Andre C. Ferrigno and Thomas E. Gordon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 4, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/05/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249306

The following person(s) are doing business as: LF Designs, 715 Haight Street #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lee Stuart Fenyes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 4, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/04/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248770

The following person(s) are doing business as: Half Price Auto, 3255 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elvicio Pinheiro Machado Filho. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/10/01.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321985

In the Matter of the Application of Sharon Ng Hashimoto. For change of Name. The applicant, Sharon Ng Hashimoto, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sharon Ann Ng. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321826

In the Matter of the Application of Howard Charles Davis, For change of Name. The application of Howard Charles Davis, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Howard Charles Davis has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sabel Samone. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321914

In the Matter of the Application of Matthew Thomas Carter, For change of Name. The application of Matthew Thomas Carter, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Matthew Thomas Carter has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carter Cyrus Laren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321900

In the Matter of the Application of Stuart Irvine Wilson, For change of Name. The application of Stuart Irvine Wilson, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Stuart Irvine Wilson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Stuart Kevin Wilson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 6th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 14, 21, 28, JULY 5, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Chastain Terry Scott and Scriber Daniel Robert. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3248 22nd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

JUNE 14, 21, 28, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Lam Dina and Lam Kin Bun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 475 Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

JUNE 14, 2001

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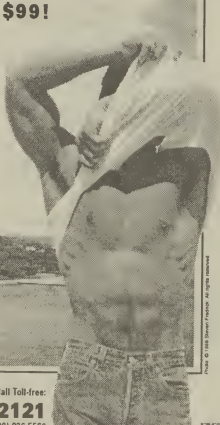
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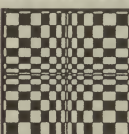
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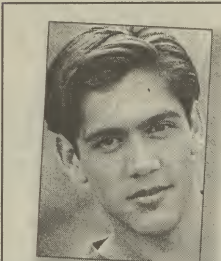
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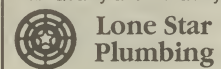
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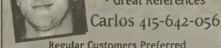
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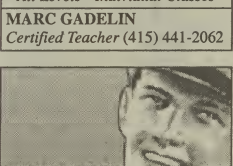
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Nothing going on but the 'Rent'
'Backstage' talks with Michael Greif, the
openly gay director of 'Rent,' 'Betty Rules.'
page 33

Boa constrictor
Julie Wilson brings her
feathers to 'Dixieland.'
page 48



Prick up your interest?
Penisspotting preview of
SF Les & Gay Film Fest.
page 35



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 24 • 14 June 2001

25 years of fabulousness

San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Fest 2001 kicks off

by David Lamble

The San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival celebrates its 25th birthday with two new screening venues (Herbst Theatre, Yerba Buena Center of the Arts Theatre), a spiffy new online ticketsite (www.frameline.org/festival) and a specially commissioned documentary (by Frameline co-founder Marc Huestis) spanning the highs (the birth of

the new queer cinema), the lows (lesbian riots at the Roxie in the late '80s in protest of a then-shortage of films by and for women) and the on-going mainstreaming of both lesbian and gay cinema. Huestis' film, *25 - A Brief History of the Festival*, will get a free screening (first come, first served) on Sunday, June 17, 11 a.m. at the Castro Theatre.

Of the 80 features filling five screens over the Festival's 11-day run (through Sunday,

June 24), many of the best contain dark takes on love and loss. Hong Kong-born Quentin Lee's *Drift* uses the new digital technology to take a sexy, bittersweet look at a young filmmaker's crisis of faith. Ryan (R.T. Lee) wakes up one morning to find that life with Joel (Greyson Dayne), his comfy but dull boyfriend of three years, has lost whatever excitement it once held for him. At a party, Ryan bumps into Leo (Jonathon Roessler), who, barely out of his teens, reminds Ryan of his once-nerdy younger self. Leo is looking to shed his virginity and hook up with a cool writer who shares his taste for horror flicks and slightly deranged crushes on serial killers. Director Lee confides that he once thought the experience informing *Drift* (the simulta-

page 36 ►

R.T. Lee as Ryan and
Jonathon Roessler as Leo in
Quentin Lee's *Drift*



All creatures great and queer

SFILGFF documentaries make our history visible by Gary Morris

There was nothing to come out to. We never heard the word homosexual. The media never mentioned it." So says one of the dykes profiled in Lucy Winer and Karen Eaton's *Golden Threads*, a superb profile of a global networking service for lesbians that also fleshes out a still-elusive history. The period referred to was the 1940s. Six decades later, thanks in no small part to the SFILGFF and works like this, there's an increasingly visible community to come out to; the word homosexual is so popular it's become passé; and the media, straight and gay, can hardly get enough of things queer.

A look at the documentary component of this year's fest shows there's indeed much to celebrate in 2001, even as there continue to be too many reasons for mourning. Marking this milestone, Marc Huestis, of Castro Theatre campfest fame, produced *25 - A Brief History of the Festival*. Deftly mixing interviews

and archival footage, Huestis chronicles the fest's transition from a local activist affair to its position as the world-class event of its kind. Everyone from filmmakers to devoted longtime attendees lovingly attest to the fest's influence on their lives and work. The sometimes too self-congratulatory tone (complete with testimonials in Spanish and German) is happily mitigated by a trove of fabulous anecdotes, and a brisk running time at 60 minutes (Castro, 6/17).

Several little-known queer subcultures far from San Francisco are explored this year. Among the best such works is *Bombay Eunuch*, directed and produced by Alexandra Shiva, Sean MacDonald, and Michelle Gucovsky. "For me, being a eunuch feels right," says one of the subjects, but their lot in India's heavily patriarchal culture is far from a happy one. Once idolized as spiritual beings whose presence at births and weddings

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From left to right,
Rick Mears, Dan
Nicoletta, and
Marc Huestis

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by Roberto Friedman
and the Hotel California

Comedian Lily Tomlin was a no-show as a presenter at the GLAAD Media Awards last Saturday night at the St. Francis hotel, but Out There honored our own commitment. We checked in as usual at the front desk and were given our press pass. As we mingled into the crowd, a staffer bustled over and asked, "Are you Mr. Friedman?" We allowed as how we were, she gave us VIP wristbands and drinky tix, and personally escorted us into the affair. We remember thinking, "Gee, press doesn't usually get treated so nicely!"

Then we were led past the cocktail party to a holding pen, where we were grandly introduced to someone as filmmaker Jeffrey Friedman, no less than one of the guests of honor! We fled, saying, "We can find the bar ourselves!" But we were tracked down and made to relinquish our wristbands, our drinky tix now worthless. Humiliated, we retreated to the press area, where we found *Survivor* "celebrity" Richard Hatch having one helluva photo opportunity. He's bigger in real life, and less naked.

"Richard!" we accosted him. "What do you think of the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. sponsoring this GLAAD event?" "Oh! I hadn't really thought



ER's Laura Innes and honey Nancy Banks at the GLAAD Media Awards.

about it!" said Hatch.

"Well, would you like some information?" we asked, handing him a flyer which had been given to us at the door by the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking & Health. It reprinted a letter to the editor in last week's *BAR* by GLAAD founding board member Naphtali Offen. "Oh! Is she someone impor-

tant here?" We informed him that Offen has been a queer community leader nationally for many more years than Hatch was working the black-tie circuit — only not in so many words, as we could tell we were spooking him. Also, his handlers were circling ominously, so we left him in peace.

Later, Hatch presented some award to *Survivor* producer Mark Burnett, who said, "I didn't want to portray Rich as a stereotypical 'nice gay guy.' Richard did some very back-stabbing things!" At last, a queer leader and a role model!

Incredibly, GLAAD also expressed its groveling gratitude to

right-wing Coors brewery (another sponsor), and only scattered hissing ensued.

We found the smoking lounge ("21 and over") upstairs in the luxurious Chairman's Suite, where actress Laura Innes (Dr. Kerry Weaver on *ER*) perched on a vintage '50s George Nelson "Marshmallow" sofa with her gal pal Nancy Banks. We chatted with a comely boy in a Keith Haring-knockoff painted bodysuit ("I peed before I got into it") — does the Haring estate know that Brown & Williamson helped themselves to his signature style? — and choked on a Lucky Strike. We'd had a full evening before first course.

Devolution

Here's Out There's candidate for the best vacuous movie to boycott this summer: the David Duchovny/Julianne Moore vehicle *Evolution*. Just a few weeks

after suffering the indignity of IBM advertisements spraypainted as "graffiti" on the streets of San Francisco, OT keeps spotting stickers of *Evolution*'s logo, a smiley face with three eyes, stuck all over the place.

We witnessed a city worker, on city time, trying in vain to scrape one of these loathsome commercials off a parking meter. Later, we saw one on a mailbox.

As if we're not inundated enough by big-budget publicity campaigns, now they come masquerading as street art. Are you as disgusted as we are by this? Call Mike Vollman at DreamWorks Field Publicity (818) 695-8000, and let him know.

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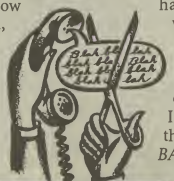
"Dear OT: Now that Michael Stipe of REM is out, could you answer another queer question for me? Is Brian Littrell of the Backstreet Boys queer? Has he come out publicly? Also, does he have a husband, and can you say who? Print what you know about him in your always interesting and fun column!

Signed,

A Queer Male Reader"

Dear QMR: OT knows you'd love to see ltitheosome Littrell face down in your pillow, but get a grip. In his "global diary" on the BBs' authorized website, he writes: "I love checking out the banners and I saw one which really touched me cos it said, 'Congratulations Brian on your marriage!' Thanks." Sounds grim.

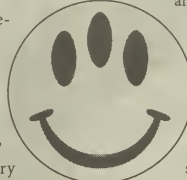
On the other hand, if anyone out there has a bedsheet or anything else stained with telltale Brian evidence, OT will personally run it down to the DNA lab ourselves, OK? All in a day's work. ▼



Out There



Richard Hatch at the St. Francis



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'It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman'

by Richard Dodds

Superman is a big showoff. He wears a garish outfit in primary colors with an oversized monogram and a superfluous cape. And his name, *Superman*—where did that come from? "It just seemed to fit," he replies without a trace of irony.

The 1966 musical *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman* fairly well deconstructed the Man of Steel, turning him into an insecure nerd who can only blossom in the adoration of the masses. Librettists Robert Benton and David Newman would restore Superman's reputation when they scripted the *Superman* movie starring Christopher Reeve.

Maybe audiences prefer their superheroes intact. For while the screen *Superman* was a big hit, its slightly subversive stage predecessor expired after a disappointing 129 performances. But even in 1966, when Broadway musicals still hadn't discovered how to be pretentious, *Superman* probably struck audiences as only so much foolery. And, after all, producer-director Hal Prince did raise ticket prices to a new Broadway high of \$12.

But the brassy and tuneful score by Lee Adams and Charles Strouse (*Bye Bye Birdie*) found enduring fans thanks to its cast album, and there are probably many musical aficionados who wonder what *Superman* looked

like on the stage. Thanks to 42nd Street Moon, you can get a rough idea at the Eureka Theatre through June 24.

Superman is a somewhat unusual choice for the troupe that offers staged concerts of neglected musicals, and its comic-book energies prove harder to capture than do the charms of the musicals of the '20s, '30s, and '40s that the troupe usually favors. The music's humorously ersatz rock 'n' roll underpinnings don't reduce well to single-piano arrangements, and even though director Bonnie Hellman finds ways to make visual jokes from the inherent technical limitations, *Superman* is a show that needs as much visual flash as it can get.

While the acting crew tends toward the motley in the smaller parts, the leads are admirably played. Kurt Kroesche is a hoot as the humorless Superman, looks good in tights, and creates a Clark Kent of extreme befuddlement. On Broadway, the actor playing Superman was given secondary billing to Jack Cassidy as the dastardly newspaper columnist Max Menken. This really is a supporting role, but one that Edward W. Hightower plays with an engaging villainous gleam.

Taking the top-comedy prize is Jackson Davis as Dr. Abner Sedgwick, the mad scientist out to destroy Superman. Davis offers a comically superb performance, taking the character's tics right to the

edge and delivering his "Revenge" aria with an understated panache.

Jenny Lord as Lois Lane adds some kick to the show's least flashy character in a skillful performance. Lisa Peers, as Max Menken's infatuated assistant, does justice to the clever "You've Got Possibilities," the closest thing to a song hit to come from the score.

As a high-school student who shelled out \$5 to see *Superman* shortly after it opened on Broadway, I can't say that this 42nd Street Moon production confirmed my happy memories of the musical. But this is rare baggage, and most fans of 42nd Street



Kurt Kroesche as the Man of Steel in 42nd Street Moon's *It's a Bird...*

Moon shows will probably find sufficient musical and comic charms to warrant a trip to Metropolis. ▼

Superman will run at the Eureka Theatre through June 24. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 255-8207.

AIDS with a twist

Craig Lucas' 'The Dying Gaul'

by Richard Dodds

Before the start of *The Dying Gaul*, director John Wilkins made a short speech on why his theater company chose Craig Lucas' play. When Lucas was writing life-affirming fantasies like *Prelude to a Kiss*, Wilkins said, he wasn't a Last Planet Theatre kind of guy. But now that he's turned dark and bitter, he fits right in.

Indeed, the 1998 play does turn

dark and bitter in the end, but this supposedly realistic conclusion feels more false than the allegorical magic of *Prelude to a Kiss*. Lucas strains credibility one too many times as he jerrybuilds a series of plot twists that leads to the downbeat finale.

But through the first act, at least, *The Dying Gaul* (named after a famous ancient statue) emerges as a provocatively entertaining look at greed, grief, jealousy, and revenge. And while Wilkins' misguided attempts to turn the play into something it's not with strobe lights and Fellini-esque circus music become destructive in the second act, they are mostly curious distractions in the first.

The central character of the play is Robert (Cody Bayne), a struggling screenwriter who has created a potential masterpiece inspired by the death of his lover from AIDS. While Robert sees it as a tribute to their relationship, a fast-talking Hollywood producer (Matt Leshinskie) sees it as a blockbuster—if only Robert is willing to turn it into a heterosexual AIDS love story.

Robert is briefly adamant about preserving the gay relation-



Matt Leshinskie in *The Dying Gaul*

ship, but he is seduced both figuratively and literally by the producer. That the producer is married with children stops neither of them, nor is the wife (Sarah Neal) naïve about her husband's proclivities. But she's jealous of this particular relationship, and she finds Robert online in a gay chat room, where she plays a crushingly cruel hoax with the inadvertent help of Robert's psychiatrist (Stig Kreps). The set up for these plotlines is considerably more interesting than their fulfillment.

While the performers seemed still to be finding their rhythms at last week's opening, they all display a passionate commitment to the material, even as they must shift gears to accommodate the heavy-handed attempts to turn *The Dying Gaul* into a Last Planet Theatre kind of play. ▼

The Dying Gaul will run at the Potrero Hill Playhouse through June 30. Tickets are \$12-\$15. Call (510) 845-2687.

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'Rent' party

Director Michael Greif goes deeper

by Richard Dodds

What do the musical phenomenon known as *Rent* and a quirky little revue titled *Betty Rules* have in common? They're both directed by the openly gay Michael Greif, and both will be in San Francisco at the same time.

Rent in fact is already here, at the Orpheum Theatre through July 15, while *Betty Rules* begins performances at the Magic Theatre on June 20. San Francisco is the last stop on a long national tour for *Rent*; *Betty Rules* is having its world premiere in our city.

While Greif has known the girl-rock group Betty for more than a decade, and enjoys their musical sensibility that has been described as a cross between the Andrew Sisters and the Marx Brothers, his heart clearly still belongs to *Rent*.

Even though the show recently celebrated its fifth anniversary on Broadway, Greif remains an active party in its well-being in New York and around the world. "I continue to cast both the Broadway and the touring production, and oversee foreign productions," Greif said. "I love the show, and I love how the show deepens and stretches its performers."

Created by the late Jonathan Larson, the musical tells the tale of a group of modern-day bohemians living on New York's Lower East Side. The authentic vibrancy of the youthful cast helped sell the sometimes-ragged material, something that Greif says hasn't waned with long-run commercial success.

"I think the people who are performing the show would tell you that they believe in the show and the show's message," the director said. "The way it touches people helps the cast to really commit to the show and give it their all."

The characters are a cross-section of New York's counterculture of the early '90s, and several of the characters — gay and straight — are enduring the death sentence that AIDS meant at the time. "Some of the facts and circumstances have changed," Greif said, "and I continue to discuss that with the companies. The musical may become about a specific time and place, but that won't make it remote or irrelevant."

Larson didn't get to see those changes; he died of an aortic aneurysm just before the first preview of the show's off-Broadway



Rent director Michael Greif

run. "We spent the first weeks of previews dealing his death while refining the show," Greif said. "And though the response to the show was extraordinary, we weren't thinking of much except how do we do justice to Jonathan's work."

There is another Jonathan in Greif's life, actor Jonathan Eaton, who has been Greif's partner for 17 years. "While I was having a great success with *Rent*, Jonathan was having a great success in the film world," Greif said. "I think that helped the balance, and since that time we've had our ups and downs in a long and happy marriage."

Greif became the artistic director of La Jolla Playhouse just before planning began on a workshop production of *Rent* in 1994. "I made it very clear to the board before I accepted the job that I had every intention of being completely out," he said.

He left La Jolla in 1999, partly to be free of administrative chores and partly to be closer to his family in New York. That includes two children, ages 6 and 2, whom he fathered with a lesbian couple who are raising them with participation by Greif and his lover.

Greif grew up in Brooklyn, a self-described effeminate kid who didn't seem to fit in any place. "I was in a very difficult environment, in which being in the closet was also being in the closet about wanting to achieve or loving to read or having an interest in literature," he said. "I was in the closet about all those things."

Theater in high school and the intellectual liberation of college began turning Greif's life around. "The youthful traumas certainly stay with you," he said, "but they also might broaden and deepen and improve you. They don't need

to hurt you. They can make you better."

Tickets to *Rent* are available at 512-7770. For *Betty Rules*, call 441-8822.

Queer Arts, continued

The theatrical components of the National Queer Arts Festival continue during the coming week with a quartet of performances at three different venues.

First up are Stanya Kahn and Harriet "Harry" Dodge, billed as the "performance power couple," who are coming home to San Francisco to perform June 15-16 at SomArts. Together, they'll perform excerpts from a work-in-progress tentatively titled *Naked on the Path*, as well as selections from their recent solo shows.

Porn-star-turned-performance artist Annie Sprinkle offers a *Her-story of Porn* on June 20-22 at Theatre Rhino. This solo performance and film diary traces Sprinkle's 25-year journey through the sexual revolution.

Liquid Fire celebrates the erotic power of lesbians of color in *Nasty*, booked at SomArts on June 21-30. Spoken word, music, song, and dance combine in this collage of past Liquid Fire performances and new material.

In *Studly*, playing Venue 9 from June 20-30, Lisi DeHaas presents a coming-of-age tale of a young woman who gradually realizes that both she and her father are gay.

For more information on any Queer Arts event, call 552-7709.

'Summer' stock

Broadway shows used to try out in New Haven. Now they look to Mountain View. At least that's the route the producers of *Summer of '42* are taking. The musical version of the 1971 film, which has announced its intentions of being part of the 2001-2002 Broadway season, will first be showcased by TheatreWorks beginning June 20.

The show was staged last summer at Goodspeed Musicals, and director Gabriel Barre is back to direct the revised production that will play Mountain View and a couple of other cities before hitting New York. Hunter Foster, a New York actor currently in *Urinetown*, wrote the libretto, and the period-flavored score is by David Kirshenbaum.

Kate Jennings Grant heads the cast as the war bride who takes the teenage Hermie under her wing. Her Broadway credits include Wendy Wasserstein's *An American Daughter*. Hermie will be played by Ryan Driscoll, who made his professional stage debut in *Sum-*

next page ►

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Hot nights on the Nile

SF Opera's 'Aida' is great music-making

by Stephanie von Buchau

By now we have established that I am dubious about the *Konzept* style of opera production: *Siegfried* staged in the gulag, or *Zauberflöte* set on the moon. These radical deconstructions generally espouse some modern psychological or political theory that would be unrecognizable to the composer, and as a result, are often jarringly unmusical.

On the other hand, an ornate, moribund, often stupid production like the current San Francisco Opera *Aida* makes one wonder idly what Verdi's epic masterpiece would be like if staged in a pig's intestine. It couldn't be any dumber than what I saw last Saturday night at the War Memorial Opera House, when a young Italian soprano, Norma Fantini, made her local debut in *Aida*'s second performance of the season.



Soprano Norma Fantini as Aida

Still, however retro, chaotic or embarrassing this *Aida* staging may have been, it proved what I have always thought and taught — great music-making overcomes

any staging idiocy. The reason those Eurotrashy concepts are so irritating is that they are often an excuse for lousy music-making. In this case, you have to give SFO props for hiring a sensational conductor, an interesting soprano, a marvelous mezzo, and then convincing a usually unconvincing tenor that he was Russell Crowe in Egypt.

This was Patrick Summers' first *Aida*, believe it or not. I'll go right out on the hyperbole limb and declare I haven't heard Verdi conducting this thrilling since the late Herbert von Karajan's *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall. The prelude set the tone for the entire evening as Summers rightly recognized and underlined the essential conflict between human emotions and public responsibility. Warm — no, hot lyrical lines oozing out of the humid Nile nights alternated with the implacably martial tones of a society ruled by warlike priests. (If only Paata Burchuladze, as the high priest Ramfis, hadn't sounded 108 years old.)

A short list of Summers' achievements includes the varied colors (mostly achieved by remarkable solo writing for the winds) with which Verdi saturates this too-familiar score; the incisive rhythmic drive of the martial music and argumentative duets (*Aida* and her father were moving; Amneris and Radames brought down the house); and the gener-



Larissa Diadkova, as Amneris in *Aida*, is a barn-burner.

ally quick tempos that relaxed into sensuous languor in the love music. The only tedious parts were the many dances, but that is not Summers' fault. Christian Holder was author of these embarrassing *ballabilli*, which in this case were mostly balla-silly. And please, when will this company learn that Verdi is a chaste composer? Sexual acrobatics in Amneris' boudoir are unnecessary and offensive.

Fantini forza

Guided, urged, and dare I say inspired by Summers, the cast came through as one seldom hears in Italian opera in SF, where Strauss, Wagner, the moderns and Eastern Europeans have ruled for many moons. Fantini was nervous, not only oversinging but rushing the climactic phrase in "O patria mia." When she relaxes, she produces a gravely beautiful sound, capable both of tenderness and of topping full orchestra and chorus. I'd like to hear her in a complete, scholarly *La Forza del destino*, with Summers in the pit. (And the Earth answers back: "Fat chance.")

If Fantini's debut was promising, Larissa Diadkova's Amneris was a barn-burner, and I say that having cheered Simionato, Resnik, Verrett, Cossotto and Zajick. Diadkova is handsome, imperious, and Russian, and she has a fabulous chest voice that is not detached from the rest of her scale, as is so often the case. The judgment scene was sheer flaming magic, and we'd still be there cheering, except that Douglas Schmidt's cinematic sets revolve to keep the action moving.

I was also amazed at tenor Richard Margison's transformation. He is not one of my faves.

He sounded as if he were having a stroke when he essayed "Nessun dorma" at the Mansouri Gala. He looked like Mr. Piggy and sounded like watered-down Ripple in *Un Ballo in maschera*. Here he looks convincingly like a chunky gladiator, and his Stentorian tones held up all night. True, he won't or can't modulate for "Celeste Aida" or "O terra addio," but Radames is a dumb jock, not a poet. Margison did seem to sit down a lot, but one didn't know whether that was fatigue or director Paula Williams' dumb idea. (As dumb ideas go, having *Aida* hide in the tomb with a votive candle was the nadir; even Ethiopians must have understood the concept of oxygen depletion.)

Stephan Pyatnychko, scheduled for *Rigoletto* in September, displayed an elegant, suave baritone at least a size too small for the War Memorial; his stage presence matched his voice. Tammy Jenkins sang the beautiful, steady, unseen offstage priestess. And Todd Geer was the messenger who, as a child, I thought was named "Avanzi," as in "Il messenger s'avvanzi" ("Let the messenger come forward.") This role has been a stepping-stone for heroic tenors. James McCracken made his Met debut as the messenger in *Aida*, though I don't think Geer is headed for a career as Otello. Still, you never know.

You have three more chances to hear Fantini, Summers and company. Close your eyes and enjoy this rare, superior musical performance. Verdi is truly honored for a change. ▼

Aida continues in repertory at the War Memorial Opera House through July 1. Tickets (\$23-\$165); call (415) 864-3330.

Backstage

◀ previous page

mer of '42 at Goodspeed. The designers also hail from Goodspeed, the Connecticut theater that has spawned such future Broadway hits as *Man of La Mancha*, *Shenandoah*, and *Annie*.

For more information, call TheatreWorks at (650) 903-6000.

Short scenes

• New York may have *Urinetown*, but San Francisco has *The John*. The play, written, directed, and starring Bob Ernst, will open June 18 in the sensory-enhancing environs of the basement bath-

room at the Maritime Hall, 450 Harrison. *The John* tells the story of a man's meeting with Death in a public restroom. Call 978-2345 to book a seat in the stalls.

• Ronnie Larsen, famous for casting porn stars in his plays, will direct one of UC Berkeley's newest Ph.D.s in his latest endeavor. Dr. John Fisher will star in Larsen's *A Few Gay Men*, opening July 5 at Venue 9. Fisher, the man behind *Medea - the Musical*, will play the role of the interviewer in a play based on revealing interviews with gay men. Call (866) 468-3399. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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FILM FESTIVAL

British sex bomb

Urban queers run amok in 'Metrosexuality'

by Robert Julian

Wearing more hats than Streisand, writer/director Rikki Beadle-Blair also stars in the colorful, six-part British miniseries *Metrosexuality*. With a throbbing hip-hop beat, the show's opening and closing credits feature the shaved and tattooed cast singing and dancing in their underwear — sort of a post-millennial Mickey Mouse Club for pederasts. And with its relentless jump cuts and wild glam styling, the show establishes itself as a contender for the "Most Trendy" award of this or any season. There hasn't been this much bad fashion on screen since *Mahogany*. Yet by the end of the first episode, *Metrosexuality*'s superficial allure wears rather thin.

Young Kwame (Noel Clarke) is the biracial, heterosexual son of two separated gay dads: Max

(Rikki Beadle-Blair) and Jordan (Karl Collins). Max, with his blond dreadlocks and aging physique, tries desperately to hold onto his physical charms, while Jordan pursues a hunky new boyfriend who turns out to be a male prostitute. Kwame would like his two dads to reunite, but in the meantime he must deal with his major crush on young Asha (Rebecca Varney). To assist in the latter effort, he enlists the help of his two gay homeboys, Dean and Bambi (the adorable Davie Fairbanks).

From the beginning, *Metrosexuality* cuts across gender, sexual, and racial barriers to present a multi-ethnic cast interacting with each other in a way that transcends cultural stereotypes. Sexuality remains fluid as various characters cross the line from straight to gay to bisexual — and back again — over the course of the six episodes. Cross-dressing, wild hair, and glam makeup are simply the tools

of urban survival for the men and women who work the local singles' scene. Max drives around town in a shocking pink Jeep and plays soccer in a leopard print unitard. His straight son Kwame loves to hang out at gay clubs and wear his dad's drag. And Max's lesbian sister lives with her female lover and their two children, but wistfully recalls her past relationship with a male fashion designer.

Surface time

The large cast of central characters and overlapping subplots can make *Metrosexuality* a bit hard to follow at times. And despite its good intentions, the series settles for cartoon characterizations rather than three-dimensional portrayals of real human beings; this defining quality is the series' Achilles heel. Most of the show's characters are selfish and self-absorbed to the extent that they remain unlikeable. Where the origi-



Metrosexuality: 'Post-millennial Mickey Mouse Club for pederasts.'

nal British series *Queer As Folk* (no stranger to self-absorption) mined the deep well of gay urban life with remarkable verisimilitude, *Metrosexuality* skims the surface of its own fantasy world, making only the occasional descent into reality. Ultimately, this is a disservice to the subject matter.

As a writer, Beadle-Blair has a tendency for oversimplification. His previous effort, *Stonewall*, suffered from stereotypical characters, clearly intended as stand-ins for various segments of the gay community that populated the Stonewall saloon at the time of the infamous riots. In *Metrosexuality*, Beadle-Blair's failure to engage the viewer's sympathy causes his satire to fall flat. *Absolutely Fabulous*, another British television series, established that you could create horrible, selfish, politically incorrect, alcoholic heroines and still produce scathing social commentary that works effectively as com-

edy. But in order to pull this off, you need writing that transcends the level of *Metrosexuality*. Here Beadle-Blair's attempts to satirize drug addiction, AIDS, prostitution, mental illness, and domestic violence just seem mean-spirited.

As an opening-night selection for the film festival, the first three episodes of *Metrosexuality* will please with their *laissez faire* attitude toward gender and sexuality. But the true test of the series' success with audiences will be determined by how many people return several days later for the last three episodes. ▼

Metrosexuality (episodes 1-3) opens the SFILGFF tonight, 6/14, 8:30 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Episodes 1-3 repeat 6/17, 2 p.m. at Herbst Theater. Episodes 4-6 screen Sat., 6/16, 4 p.m. (CFA); Sun., June 17, 4 p.m. (Herbst).

Penisspotting 2001

Cockologist report from SFILGFF

by Gary Morris

Despite its fascination for so many, penisspotting has received little serious study and even less respect. Some say this activity is based on birdwatching, sharing with that sport an interest in parks and woodlands and the use of a magnification device (preferably a jeweled lorgnette) for shadowy or leaf-obscured targets. Of course, the dedicated spotter also includes urban environments, from backrooms to bathhouses to gutters, in his purview, and few would deny that birdwatching is far more accepted than cockwatching. To help redress this obvious inequity, if only in a small way, we offer our annual survey of cinematic dick in the SF Internat'l Les & Gay Film Fest. We make no claim to comprehensiveness; we were too busy with our own schlongspotting to watch every work in the fest.

This year's sightings, based on more than two dozen docs and features, could hardly be called a bumper crop. Of that number, seven yielded at least one sighting. In some cases, heaven forbid, there was almost too much of that good thing (*Phantom*); in others, there was little trace of the penis in places where the cockologist had every right to expect it (*La Confusion de Genres*). Still, there was enough evidence of the elusive little guy overall to entice even hardened dickophiles to abandon the parks and public toilets (briefly) in favor of the festival. In the present survey, the US and Portugal showed the most pioneering penis spirit, while England, Canada, and France came up surprisingly short.

Any director who trumpets his devotion to Bruce La Bruce could be expected to offer a panoply of penises, in the master's mode. And certainly the plot of Canada's *Hey Happy!* would seem very promising in this regard. An "apocalyptic love story set in Winnipeg's illegal rave scene," as the press notes say, the film is a hothouse mélange of UFOs, drugs, and drag queens.

Sadly, though, there's only one scene in which our spongy-tissued pal emerges. It's a woefully brief sequence of naked queens undulating underwater. Perhaps director Noam Gonick hopes to work for Disney one day.

Pink narcissus

Ever optimistic, we turned from Canada to England, where Channel 4 has done some important work in this area. Admittedly, television, even in Britain, is not the place to surf, only to snack. But even we were surprised that *Metrosexuality*, a hyper-hip, candy-colored comedy series about multiracial, polysexual Britain, has but a smidgen of schlong. Director-star Rikki Beadle-Blair displays his wares for a few seconds during a phone sex chat. Extensive testing has failed to verify another reported sighting during a hot 69 sequence between an alleged straight boy and a middle-aged queen with a pink Mohawk.

We had such hopes for French cinema after the promise of *Baise Moi* with its nonstop parade of hard-ons, but alas, the two films surveyed here, *La Confusion de Genres* and *Adventures of Felix*, never approach that level. Not that they're bad films; in fact, they're both quite good, which makes the lack of dick display all the more lamentable. Ilan Duran Cohen's too-aptly named *Confusion* stars Pascal Greggory as Alain, a 40ish guy whose entire circle wants to get in his pants. Alain's apparently irresistible schlong is only seen once, in a hetero tryst. For completists, there's also a short shower scene where a homely man with a horsedick soaps up, but it's hardly compensation to the confused spotter. *Felix*, directed by Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau, is a sweet, queer road movie with one sequence that almost makes up for all those strategically placed sheets and that too-discreet lighting. Handsome Felix (Sami Bouajila) gets picked up while hitchhiking by an authentic hunk, and they enjoy a woodland fuck. When the two emerge naked from their rendezvous, the film be-

comes a happy valentine to size queens.

Far less sunny but richer in other areas is Joao Pedro Rodrigues' *Next* (next page) ▶

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SFILGFF

◀ Arts cover

neous loss of a three-year relationship and the end of a passionate crush) were too personal to film. *Drift* works brilliantly because we get so close to the characters, and the story shatters expectations of a conventional ending by giving three plausible trajectories for the collision course of Ryan, Joel and Leo. Best of all, each ending begins with Ryan hopping out of bed (Victoria, 6/16; Castro, 6/18).

SFILGFF offers two different takes on the female detective. This year's Castro opener marks the return of Susan Seidelman, whose first two features, the cult classic *Smithereens* and the movie that mainstreamed Madonna, *Desperately Seeking Susan*, made her briefly the most bankable of late-'80s women directors. Seidelman's *Gaudi Afternoon* gives us a chance to gawk along the beautiful avenues and cafés of Barcelona while a quartet of indie divas tries to keep our interest in a very light tall tale. Judy Davis, in her best Woody Allen-inspired style, barks, bitches and chain-smokes through her role as Cassandra, an itinerant book translator who turns private investigator to pay the rent. Given anything at all to do, Davis is fabulous. Here she's allowed to stare at Juliette Lewis' belly button, wonder at the fright wig donned by Marcia Gay Harden, and be mildly embarrassed at Lili Taylor's incarnation as a butch dyke named Ben. The film's high point comes when Davis descends into a basement speakeasy to watch a magician mime Dean Martin. It's not *Susan*, but it is a tad desperate (Castro, 6/14).

Shawn Hatosy pins fellow student Danny Dyer in *Borstal Boy*

"You're a great fuck, but a very ordinary detective." A middle-aged poetry professor (an offbeat but effective screen return for Kelly McGillis) gives this bit of lip to Jill (Susie Porter), the private eye she's been shagging in the sexy thriller *The Monkey's Mask*. Based on Dorothy Porter's murder mystery in verse, it's a smart and saucy piece of fluff with lines like, "I wish my cunt could hurt you," and, "Strangulation orgasm is a lot safer between girls." Bad erotic poetry never had it so good (Castro, 6/16).

Diary pages

A South Korean girls' prep

school is effectively exploited in the New Wave identity horror film *Memento Mori* from the directing team of Min Kyu-dong and Kim Tae-yong. A very mobile camera gives an extra edge to this Korean-style ghost story which explores the mysterious suicide of a young schoolgirl who's been keeping a strange diary. A not-to-be-missed treat from the hottest spot in the Asian film world (Castro, 6/18; Roxie, 6/20).

The early life of legendary Irish poet Brendan Behan is given a fresh spin in *Borstal Boy*, a first feature by the brother of the director of *My Left Foot*, Peter Sheridan. Sheridan drew his screenplay

from Behan's prison diary, written at 16 while in British custody as a suspected bombmaking member of the IRA. Bear with *Borstal Boy* until you get to the good parts — a very tender and convincing liaison between Brendan (Shawn Hatosy) and queer cellmate Charlie Millwall (the sensationally spunky Danny Dyer). While at times borrowing a bit too much from British reform school classics like *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*, *Borstal Boy* manages to be jarringly specific about the tensions between boys behind bars (Castro, 6/15).

An even harsher slice of prison life is served up by director Cheryl Dunye (*Watermelon Woman*) and the folks at HBO. *Stranger Inside* is a disturbingly intimate account of a young African-American woman's attempt to get close to a convicted murderer she believes to be her birth mother. In and out of juvy for most of her young life, Treasure Lee (Yolanda Ross) marks her 21st birthday by graduating to an adult women's prison. Skilled at playing prison games like smuggling and drug dealing, Treasure is not prepared for how real things can get when you get on the wrong side of family ties behind bars. *Stranger Inside* features strong performances from

screen newcomer Ross and Davenia McFadden as Treasure's prison mom Brownie. Director Dunye means to get under our skin about the plight of single mothers in prison, and she succeeds (Castro, 6/16).

An almost companion piece is the made-for-television drama *Kevin's Room*, an exploration of the multiple anxieties surrounding African-American men and an AIDS epidemic that is disastrously out of control. Cleverly structured if a little blandly executed, *Kevin's Room* gives us a convincingly diverse portrait of black men in the life, and demonstrates how isolating the nasty cocktail of racism and homophobia can be at encouraging denial and limiting treatment and prevention (Roxie, 6/16).

Finally, the German drama *Chill Out* offers an astute eye on the fragile dynamics of a menage between two young men and a slightly older and world-weary woman. Directed by a German disciple of Derek Jarman, *Chill Out* shows how hard a mix sex and friendship can be (Herbst, 6/17; Castro, 6/19). ▼

SFILGFF coverage continues next week in the BAR.

Penisspotting

◀ previous page

drigues' *Phantom* (*O Fantasma*), from Portugal. This excellent but very grim take on a latex-wearing garbage collector's off-duty fuck-fests is reminiscent of films like *Frisk* and *Hard* in its unrelenting portrayal of sexual excess. Prick voyeurs will find this one a veritable feast, with dicks in every imaginable state of arousal and activity, and a pleasant variety of settings. Yes, there's actual hardcore sex here, in a steamy toilet suck scene. Some viewers may be put off by rubber boy's hygiene habits; he's as likely to lick the floor or the sidewalk as a thrusting shaft. Still, as one of the most cock-clogged works in the fest, *Phantom* is a strong candidate for the PPSI (penis-per-square inch) Award.

Returning to home base, we come to *On the Bus*, the inevitable gay backlash to the "reality TV" syndrome. Directed by one of its stars, Dustin Black, this *Ode to Boy* follows six gay twinks as they travel 600 miles in a bus to the Burning Man festival. Sex is a constant topic, but the filmmakers — perhaps constrained by the Internet company that financed the film — show only a couple of actual pricks: one in a background porn

snippet, the other in a Jacuzzi sequence. Of course, the Burning Man festival is a notorious flesh parade, and once the twinks arrive, it's hippie-dick heaven. The use of split-screen here will confound some cockwatchers, inducing eyestrain as they struggle to make sense of what they see.

Peter Barbosa and Garrett Lenoir's *Out in the Open* is the answer to a penisspotter's prayer, an hourlong doc on the subculture of gay public sex. An assortment of interviewees offers timeless wisdom ("Monogamy is a recipe for disaster!") and thoughtful assessments of the morality, logistics, and other aspects of this activity. All that theorizing is fine, but the real lure are the sex scenes, a heady mix of re-creation and reality, with the emphasis on the latter. The filmmakers present the shadowy world of backroom bars and bathhouses to enchanting effect, using color filters to capture the enduring pleasures of anonymous sex in parks, sex clubs, and other natural habitats. *Out in the Open* is as practical as it is provocative. Shot in San Francisco at such well-known venues *de verga* as My Place and the bushes of Buena Vista Park, it's a well-drawn map to treasures that festivalgoers can pursue when they're not in the theatre. ▼



SF JUNE PRIDE 2001

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Sunday, June 24, really early
BUMP - Afterhours, 12:30AM-10AM, @ CAT CLUB, 1190 Folsom St./ 8th St
DJ Joe Gauthreau of U2, New Orleans
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DJ Jason G (SF) Trance Room
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Sunday, June 24, last dance
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Too queer for Hollywood

The strange case of William Haines

by Robert Julian

Documentary filmmakers Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey seem to be drawn to outré, off-center, and frequently titillating subjects whose innate quirkiness is perfectly camera-ready. Past explorations include the murderous Manhattan club-kid Michael Alig (*Party Monster*), Tammy Faye Baker (*The Eyes of Tammy Faye*), and the world of Santa Monica Boulevard hustlers (*101 Rent Boys*). This time around, they turn their attention to William Haines, the biggest male Hollywood movie star of 1930, who was unemployed by 1933. Haines lost his studio contract because he refused Louis B. Mayer's ultimatum to give up Jimmy Shields, his live-in lover, and take a wife.

Out of the Closet, Off the

Screen: *The Life and Times of William Haines*, produced for American Movie Classics, is based on the Haines biography *Wise-cracker* by William Mann. The book, a rather dry but thorough telling of Haines' extraordinary life, takes on an additional gloss with Barbato and Bailey's treatment. Archival stills and film footage are combined with interviews and some recreations of key moments in Haines' life, featuring the handsome Christopher Lawford as Haines. Stockard Channing reads the narration, written by Gabriel Rotello. *Out of the Closet* screens as part of the SFILGFF on Sunday, June 17.

William Haines, an upper-middle-class Midwestern boy, was more interested in sewing and decorating than football and baseball. Although a naturally gifted athlete, young Billy refused to participate in sports and took more

than his share of teasing as a result. He deflected the verbal assaults with witty *bon mots* and his naturally butch personality. Early in life, Haines adopted the role of the wisecracker as a defense mechanism; it was a persona that would follow him onto the screen in his Hollywood films.

Handsome and gregarious, Haines first moved to Manhattan, where he explored his homosexuality in the wild excesses of Greenwich Village during the Jazz Age. A chance encounter with a talent scout got him a Hollywood contract that led to leading roles in motion pictures. On camera, Haines was the perfectly charming party boy whose irresponsibility and racy behavior perfectly mirrored the times. Then came the Depression and its concomitant shift to the right.

With Hollywood's new morality, the Hayes office censored film content, and studio heads resolved to erase debauchery (read: homosexuality) from the screen. Ever the free spirit, Haines would not reform his ways, and Mayer boot-ed him out of the studio. With the support of his lifelong friend Joan Crawford, Haines reinvented himself as interior decorator to the stars, and went on to sustain this highly successful career for the rest of his life. He also sustained his "marriage" to Jimmy Shields for 47 years, until Haines' death in the early '70s.



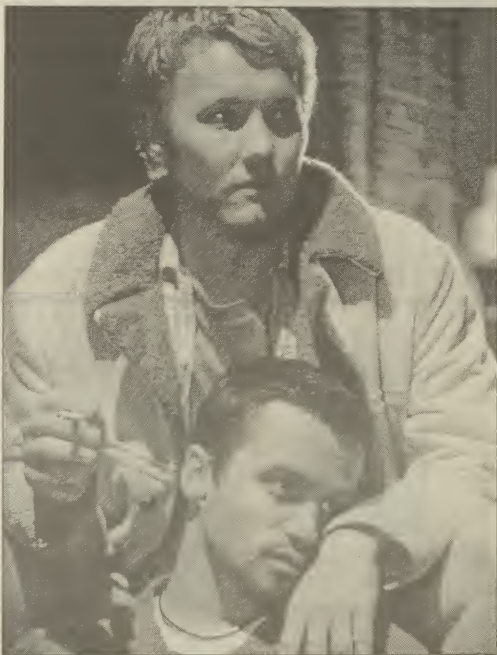
William Haines, from studio star to interior decorator.

Bailey and Barbato's rendering of Haines' life is straightforward and thoroughly intelligent. They cover all major life events, including the Haines sex scandal that almost ruined his second career as a decorator. The only noticeable omission is the sexually permissive nature of Haines' relationship with Shields, and the fact that the two men, as they aged, became inordinately fond of their cocktails, ruining more than a few dinner parties with their sodden behavior. It's possible that these latter facts might not appeal to a television audience, or might serve to diminish the generally courageous arc of Haines' life. In any case, *Out*

of the Closet, Off the Screen is an engaging and entertaining documentary.

In a stroke of genius, Frameline pairs this documentary with a screening of Haines' 1930 fiasco *Way Out West*. With his uncharacteristic and incredibly swishy performance in this film, Haines sealed his fate as a leading man. This double-bill should be one of the hits of the film festival. ▼

Out of the Closet, Off the Screen: The Life and Times of William Haines and Way Out West screen Sunday, 6/17, 3:30 p.m. at the Castro.



Two young lovers take an Australian road trip in *Saturn's Return*.

Short & sweet

SFILGFF's queer shorts

by David Lamble

Let's do the numbers: 272 lesbian/gay/bi/transgendered shorts, multiplied by an average running time of 9 minutes, equals slightly more than 40 hours of viewing time. So I'm going to make things easier for you. Here are my choices for this year's dozen or so most unforgettable SFILGFF queer shorts, and my totally subjective reasons why.

It doesn't get any better than Vietnamese-born American filmmaker Hoang A. Duong's *Tom Clay Jesus*, a multilayered examination of a one-night stand. Tom, a New York grad student, picks up Clay, an aspiring actor, in a Manhattan laundromat. A month later, Tom invites Jesus home from the same laundromat. Inspired by a

real experience, this is a funny and bittersweet epiphany on the slippery slope where love and lust meet, cohabit but never quite connect. The dialogue is sparse, and, as in a good poem, every line is fraught with meaning. Tom treats sex like an errand that is necessarily repeated but not remembered. To Clay, the encounter becomes a sense memory that lingers long afterwards. The short brilliantly hints at larger issues, including cross-cultural attractions, physical fetishes, and the inability of some humans to ever really connect with anyone too close at hand. (*Fun in Boys' Shorts*, Castro, 6/16 & 24; and *Coffee Date*, Victoria, 6/18)

In Australian Wenona Byrne's *Saturn's Return*, two young lovers (one Anglo and the other Greek)

page 45 ►

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Boys to men

'Scout's Honor' puts the out in Scouting

by Robert Julian

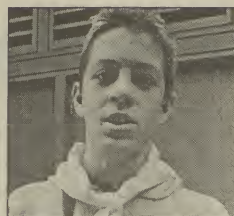
I was never a Boy Scout. But for two prepubescent years, I was a Cub Scout. Twice a month I put on a little blue and gold uni-

form, with matching cap and coordinated scarf, and headed off to the basement of our Scoutmaster's house for troop meetings. As a skinny, effeminate boy, I was the butt of daily jokes at school, but I was treated with respect at our

troop meetings. Yet when it came time to move up from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts, I declined. I was burned out on two years of basement handicrafts with boys who were nice enough, but frankly didn't seem too bright. Somewhere deep in my emerging soul, I must have also sensed I was an independent spirit, not a joiner; one who would never thrive in a regimented and regulated context, or find enhanced self-expression by association with any group.

All these memories came back to me watching Tom Shepard's compelling documentary *Scout's Honor*, which debuts Tuesday, June 19 at 10 p.m. on KQED, Channel 9. An award-winner at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival, *Scout's Honor* is the opening program in the new season of PBS' *P.O.V.*; it also plays the SFILGFF on 6/19 (Castro). The subject in this instance is the institutionalized policy of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) that excludes homosexuals from Scouting. It is a policy that has been under siege in America's courts and newspapers since 1981.

Filmmaker Shepard concentrates on the Scouting for All movement, which began in Petaluma with an unlikely alliance between two heterosexuals: Steve Cozza, a 12-year-old boy, and the 70something David Rice, a Scoutmaster with a lifetime of active involvement in Scouting. In the late 1990s they begin a grassroots movement to get the BSA to reverse its policy of discrimination.



Activist Steve Cozza: courageous

Cozza and Rice both indicate in the film that they find the practice not only morally objectionable, but completely inconsistent with the stated objectives of Scouting. Their courage, in the face of stinging rebukes from their Scouting colleagues, forms the core of *Scout's Honor*. But the struggle goes back much further than the formation of Scouting for All.

The first significant challenge was mounted in 1981 by Tim Curran, a gay Eagle Scout who challenged the BSA's policy. More recently, Jim Dale, an expelled gay Eagle Scout, sued the BSA over their discriminatory policy and won, with his victory upheld by a unanimous decision in the New Jersey Supreme Court. That decision was subsequently overturned by the US Supreme Court on a five-to-four vote. Both Curran and Dale participate in the documentary, providing moving testimonials to their own struggles. Filmmaker Shepard assembles great documentary footage of old television appearances by the two as their battle unfolds in the court of public opinion.

One of the most moving aspects of the struggle undertaken by Rice, Cozza, Curran, and Dale is their abiding faith in the value of Scouting, and their love of the institution. These are not agitprop

outsiders who cast stones from the sidelines, but committed participants in Scouting who, at no small personal cost, undertake to change a policy they feel is morally bankrupt. One of the men expresses confidence the policy will ultimately be reversed, but fears, in the interim, that those in power at the BSA will do irreparable damage to a valuable program. And although the documentary does not mention this, the many recent suspensions of state and local funding of the BSA because of this discrimination lend credence to his point of view.

Shepard intelligently assembles the pieces of *Scout's Honor* into a truly moving documentary, in spite of the fact that BSA officials refused to speak to him. He brings a nice balance to the subject, choosing to focus on the personal impact of the policy on the lives of those who are fighting it. There is moving footage of young Cozza marching in San Francisco's gay parade and speaking to the crowd from the podium, as well as excerpts from the private ceremony where Steve receives his badge as an Eagle Scout as his equally courageous parents look on. Anyone who experienced Scouting long ago will still get a little tingle up his spine when the film offers up the recitation of the Boy Scout's oath "to do our best, to do our duty, to God and our country." Exactly who is doing his best, and how it is being done, is the real subject of this wonderful documentary. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



Jackie Beat dazzles the crowd at Trannyshack. See Tuesday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Nostalgia trip

I pray that the true spirit of the Paradise Garage will return for a new generation."

With these lofty words Mel Cheren, founder of once mighty West End Records disco label and financial backer of one of New York City's legendary gay discos, the Paradise Garage, concludes his oddly captivating new autobiography, *Keep on Dancin'*, which examines from a white insider's perspective the birth of disco, the gift of black gay culture.

A new generation of gay clubbers in San Francisco will soon have a chance to experience some of that old Garage spirit. This Sunday, June 17, Pleasuredome turns its decks over to David DePino and Joey Llanos, two deejays who worked at the Garage with the late, great ruler of the turntables, DJ Larry Levan.

Those who want to maximize their Garage-redux experience would do well to scan the book for juicy insider details before heading off to 177 Townsend for the party.

The Paradise Garage, according to Cheren, was "the first big-time, mainstream gay disco to enthusiastically court black and Latino gay men, not just whites." More than at the mostly white gay discos, the clientele of the Garage were serious dancers, not just poseurs: "there was no attitude, here, no cliques defined by their muscles, no fashion victims, no A-list. . . . It was a refuge. . . an ark, a church, a temple, a home. People claim it saved their lives, helped get them off the streets, gave them a purpose. . . . We were a tribe."

As is true with most modern dance tribes, the Garage pack were usually flying on chemical highs. "By being just as high as the most hardcore disco fans," writes Cheren, "I was hearing what they were hearing, responding the way they responded, liking what they liked" — implying, perhaps, that without angel dust, Evelyn "Champagne" King's "Shame," Donna Summer's "Try Me I Know We Can Make It," and Gloria Gaynor's "Never Can Say Goodbye" never would have sounded quite so glorious.

No chemical can substitute for a great DJ, and that's what made the Paradise Garage famous; it's DJs were treated as royalty, and the DJ booth was "the ultimate VIP room." Diana Ross, Madonna and a host of other celebs used to hang out in the DJ booth, as did record promoters and gaggles of gorgeous boys.

The Paradise Garage rose to its pinnacle in the years immediately preceding the advent of AIDS; it was a place of wild abandon and hedonistic fun. It was the good old days, as many old-timers attest, and its temporary revival, if only in spirit, will be a flashback to a time of innocence in Paradise. ▼

Call the Pleasuredome hotline at 289-6699.

Fri 15

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Yosemite Falls wilderness camping weekend. Take the train to Yosemite, then climb from the valley floor to the Nevada Falls campsite with a side trip the next day to the top of Half Dome for the view. It's a strenuous 5-mile hike with a 5,000-ft. elevation gain carrying your gear. Meet 7am at the Amtrak train station. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Dance Mission Theater

Dance Brigade and ABD Productions present "The SF Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival" 5th anniversary celebration: "Queer Dance: Sex and Comedy." An evening of contemporary ballet, theater, modern dance and site-specific performance art by eight choreographers exploring the genderqueer body, fantasy and flight attendants, the importance of sex, grief and transformation, extreme states that push the mind and body (touching the limits of existence), and the power of a quiet, erotic adagio. Featuring Laura Bernasconi, Tara Brandel/Mna Rua, Sara Sean Dorsey, Kim Epifano, Michelle Ito, Julie Kane/Mercy Sidbury, Jared Kaplan/Gabriel Todd, and KT Nelson/Brian Fisher. Curated by Anne Bluethenthal and Krissy Keeler. \$15 adv.; \$17 door. 8pm. Also June 16 & 17. 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Tix/info: 273-4633.

Galería de la Raza

Queer Latina/o Arts Festival presents an evening of poetry by *hombres y mujeres de la comunidad LGBT Latina/o*. 7-9:30pm. Info: 648-3702; www.QueLaCo.org

Space 743

Opening reception: National Queer Arts Festival presents "Life After Death: Embracing the Queer Widow," a multi-disciplinary exhibition that celebrates life, confronts death, and embraces the living through works created for, by and about members of the "queer community" whose partners/lovers have died. Featured artists and poets are Tim Clare, Jim Cross, Chuck Forester, Yves Moreale, Douglas Morris, Dan Pillers, Mike Richards, and Kerry Rutz. Curated by Dan Pillers/Fagart unlimited. 6-9pm. Exhibit runs thru July 28. 743 Harrison St. Info: www.fagart.com; www.queerculturalcenter.org

SomArts

National Queer Arts Festival presents performance artists Stanya Kahn in excerpts from "The Ballad of Crappy and Seapole (According to Shempco)," and Harriet Dodge in "From Where I'm Sitting (I can only reach your ass)," plus their co-creation-in-progress, "Naked on the Path." \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Also on June 16. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

SomArts

National Queer Arts Festival presents Program I of Liquid Fire's "Nasty," an evening of burning hot spoken word, music, song and dance dedicated to the exploration, reclamation and celebration of the erotic power of lesbians of color. Two separate orgasmic programs will be offered through June 30 by members of the lesbian performance project Liquid Fire. With percussion group Liberations. \$17 adv.; \$22 door (discounts for students/seniors/disabled). 8pm 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org; A Different Light Bookstore; Mama Bears Bookstore (Oakland). Email: liquidfirehot@hotmail.com

SomArts

Opening reception: National Queer Arts Festival presents an exhibition of works by young queer visual artists Cooper Lee Bombardier, Chloe Sherman, and Daphne Schollinski. With ambient DJ, beverages and hors d'oeuvres. 5-7pm. 934 Brannan St.

(at 8th St.). Info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace artist-in-residence Duy Nguyen performs "Men In Love," a multimedia play that draws from interviews conducted with gay Asian and Asian American men in SF, about loving and living within the imperfect landscape of racial and gender tensions. Plus: "Dimensions," a multimedia improvisation exploring the possibility of reality. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: 554-0402.

Bucheon Gallery

Opening reception: paintings and works on paper by New York artist Peter Hristoff, a native of Turkey, born in Istanbul in 1958 into a family of artists. Themes of hope, despair, death, regeneration and memory. Plus a series of intimate drawings that evolved through years of working with the same model and building trust. Free. 6-8pm. 540 Hayes St. Info: 863-2891; www.bucheon.com

AHP Services Center

"About Sex — Emotional Intimacy: Loving, Laughing, Crying, Trusting, Sharing, etc.," a workshop for all gay and bisexual men. Consider the ways people have emotional closeness — through vulnerability, emotional risk-taking, and being oneself — and find ways to enhance and celebrate sexual and non-sexual aspects of relationships. Sponsored by the AIDS Health Project's REACH Program. Free. 6:30-9pm. 1930 Market St. Info/RSVP: 476-6448, ext. 1.

The Lab

"Radiant Sounds," an evening of live and processed electro-acoustic music with sound alchemists Chiara Giovando, Recursive Heretics, and Pamela Z. Part of "The Gateway Project." \$5-\$10 sliding. 9pm. 2948 16th St. Info: 864-8855; www.thelab.org

Virgil Skye Gallery

Opening reception: "Naked Angel," black and white photographs by Kelly Grider, depicting heroic male nudes at once erotic and spiritual. Free. 6-9pm. 980 Sutter St. (btwn Hyde & Leavenworth). Info: 409-1100.

Sat 16

Tire Beach

"Gay Shame," a radical alternative to consumerist "pride" events. A carnival, freakshow, and queer autonomous space. Featuring 10 bands — Erase Errata; The Floating Corpses; Beat Box Cassie; Feelings on a Grid; Mutilated Mannequins; Running Ragged; Under 89; Binky and Lucifag — plus DJ Crow (hip hop) and others. Performances by Dhaia Tribe and SF in Exile. Also: speakers, art-making, activist tabling, kidspace, food, and installations. Dress to absolutely terrifying, ragged, devastating excess. Say the organizers: "Gay Shame is our chance to create our own culture out of the rot around us." Free. 2pm-sunset. 24th St. & the SF Bay. Info: 820-1411.

St. Martin de Porres Chapel

1444 Productions presents "215 Celebration for Ilia's 80th Birthday," with friends of medical-marijuana, including Dennis Peron, David Nash, Ilia, the 1444 Gang, and Boo Boo's Bargain Basement Band. With live and DJ music, surprise guests, old friends, food & beverages. 8pm. 350 Divisadero St. (at Oak). Info: 552-8653.

National AIDS Memorial Grove, Golden Gate Park

Join other volunteers for the Grove's monthly "Work Day" to weed, plant, and remember loved ones. 9am-2pm. Info: 750-8340; www.aidsmemorial.org

G40+ Club

"2nd Annual Porn Sale," a benefit for the G40 Plus Club. Books & maga-

Lisi DeHaas plays *Studly* at Venue 9. See Wednesday

zines only \$1. Videos only \$3. Dildos, pumps, vibrators, etc. as marked. 10am-2pm. Garage, 3507 23rd St. (btwn Valencia & Guerrero).

El Rio

"The 5th Annual Mission Creek Music Festival" presents a spectacular lineup of local experimental/art/post-rock bands: Live Human; Persephone's Bees; Zmrzlina; Blectum from Blechdom; The Roofies; The Centimeters; The Court and Spark; Virgal Shaw; Grandfalcon Bus; Extra Action Marching Band; Drizioletto w/Ralph Carney; Angel's Camp. \$8. 3pm-1am. 3158 Mission St.

Sun 17

New Conservatory

Theatre Center

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told, Paul Rudnick's sexy farce of sin, irreverence, mysterious forces, infidelity, flashing repartee and wanton wiles. Directed by George Maguire. \$15-\$25. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; 2pm matinees on Sat. June 23, July 7 & 14, and Sun. June 17 and July 15 (final performance). 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Howard Thurman Ritual Center, Oakland

"Pink Triangle Mass: A Techno-Cosmic Ritual Honoring Rainbow Spirit," presented by Q-Spirit, a nonprofit organization promoting personal growth and spiritual development in the LGBT community, and Matthew Fox's University of Creation Spirituality, which pioneered the techno-mass concept. A multimedia, multisensory, multifaceted celebration involving music, dance, and guided rituals. Bring percussion instruments. Drug and alcohol free. Donations requested at door. 6:30-9:30pm. 1933 Broadway, Oakland (across from 19th St. BART station). Info: (415) 281-9377; www.qspirit.org; www.creationspirituality.org

Mon 18

Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by LA comic Stephanie Howard. Plus: Karen Ripley, Janis Lipton, Erin Souza, Dana Cory, George Simmons, Maggie Dolan, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. Info: 541-5610. No reservations necessary.

Brava Theater

Queer Latina/o Arts Festival presents the "Mr. and Ms. Gay Safe Latina/o" contest, an evening filled with talent, beauty, knowledge, costumes and fun. Whomever is crowned will be part of the Latina/o contingent at this year's LGBT Pride parade. Directed by Gustavo Cravioto. Co-sponsored by Instituto Familiar de la Raza. 7-10pm. 2781 24th St. (at York). Info: 648-3702; www.QueLaCo.org

Merchants Exchange Bldg. Ballroom

All gay/bi/trans men 40+, their friends and admirers are invited to "The Geezers' Ball," sponsored by the Stop AIDS Project, Most Holy Redeemer ASG, G Forty Plus, and New

Leaf Outreach to Seniors. Swing to sounds of Big Band, disco, musica Latina, and current hits. Live performances by diva Kathleen Antonia and illusionist Christian Minchillo. Party dress encouraged. Free with reservation before midnight Sunday, June 17, 8-11pm. 465 California St. (at Montgomery). RSVP: 430-2162, ext. 1385; email mgm-mhr@onebox.com

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Embarcadero

The GLBT Round Table of the American Library Association presents "We Are Family," a storytime/read-aloud event for GLBT kids, teens and grown-ups. Bring something to read. Professional storytellers will entertain. 11am-12:30pm. Embarcadero Center. Info: email cchapp@execpc.com

Tue 19

The Stud

Trannyshack's Heklina welcomes drag luminary Jackie Beat for a special pre-Gay Pride show. Beat's many film credits include *Grief*, the documentary feature *Wigstock: The Movie*, and *Flawless*, in which he appeared with Robert De Niro. His one-man show Jackie Beat is A Whole 'Lotta Love ran for 18 months at NYC's cabaret Fez, and he currently lives in LA and sings in the rock band World Domatrix with Alexis Arquette, Mistress Formika, and Psychotica's Pat Briggs. He created popular nightclubs in LA and NYC. \$7. 10pm-3am; show at midnight. 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Lexington Club

Sini Anderson curates and hosts "Virgin Art Show," an evening of emerging dyke artists with a visual art opening from 5-7 pm, and a performance at 8 pm. Free (\$5 donation requested). 8pm. 19th St. at Lexington.

Wed 20

Venue 9

National Queer Arts Festival and Footloose's Women On The Way project present "Studly," a new comedy-drama by Lisi DeHaas who uses monologues, music and dance to portray several characters who all value "studliness" as part of their sexual/artistic identity. \$12-\$15 sliding (Wednesdays are pay-what-you-can). 8pm. Thru June 30. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info:



Photo Credit

Kelly Grider's eroto-spiritual photographs show at Virgil Skye Gallery. See Friday.

289-2000; www.venue9.com

Theatre Rhinoceros

National Queer Arts Festival presents Annie Sprinkle in "Herstory of Porn: Reel to Real," a solo performance and film diary that traces her 25-year evolution through the Sexual Revolution. Directed by Emilio Cubeiro. \$25. 8pm. 2940 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

SomArts

National Queer Arts Festival presents a community discussion with Chris Reed: "There's No Place Like Home: Marking Chicago's 'Boys Town'."

Reed, associate professor of art history at Lake Forest College near Chicago, will explore the implications of conceiving of gay identity as a search for an imagined "home" territory, the paradigm of which is Oz. \$10. 7:30 pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St). Info/tix: 552-7709

Thu 21

Newman/Holy Spirit Parish, Berkeley

"One Body, Many Parts," the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Catholic Pride Mass. 7pm. 2700 Dwight Way (at College), Berkeley. Info: email lgbt_newman@yahoo.com

SF Art Institute

On exhibit: "Night/Crimes," LA crime photos paired with astronomical images of the night sky on the evening the documented incident occurred, and "Absent Figures," sublime landscapes of impending disaster, by Charles Gaines, recipient of the prestigious 2001 Adaline Kent Award. Free. Mon.-Sat., 11am-6pm. Walter & McBean Galleries, SFAI, 800 Chestnut St. Info: www.sfai.edu (click on "What's Hot").

ODC Theater

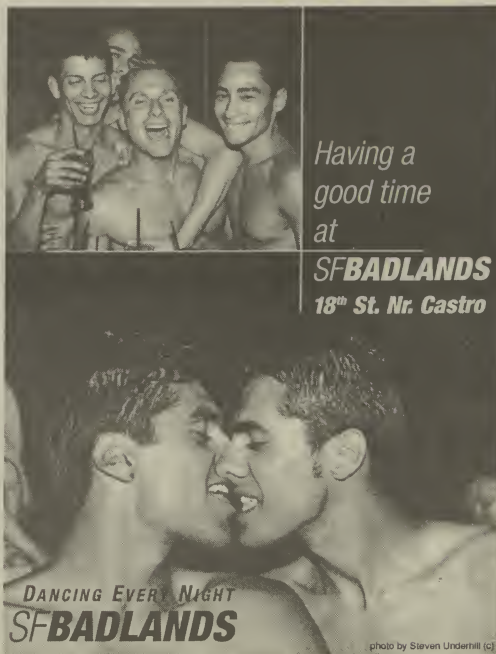
World premiere: choreographer Sara Shelton Mann presents "Monk at the Met: Feast of Souls," selected memories of a soul over the last 2000 years. With dancers Abby Crain, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Jose Navarrete, Austin Forbord, Shelly Trot, Miranthe Tewksbury, David Bentley and John McNamara. Guggenheim Fellow Mann is ODC artist-in-residence. \$18. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org/theater

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Spark Deley

Tara Brandel performs in *Queer Dance: Sex and Comedy* at Dance Mission Theater. See Friday.

Brunch

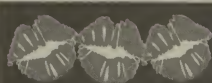
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SFILGFF docs

◀ Arts cover

was crucial, the eunuchs (*hijra*), who number 1.3 million in India, now subsist through begging and whoredom. The film creates a powerful mosaic of lives truncated by family rejection, social exile, poverty, and AIDS. The mix of academic analysis, scenes from Bollywood, and scenes from the lives of a group of eunuchs paid by the filmmakers for access into their rarely-glimpsed world make this a must-see work (Roxie, 6/15).

Closer to home is Juan Carlos Zaldivar's engaging *90 Miles*, an autobiographical tale of growing up communist in Cuba until age 13, then coming to Miami to enjoy the debatable pleasures of American culture. Zaldivar's queerness is less compelling here than the cultural dislocation, most profoundly felt by his father, whose longing for his old life in Cuba takes on tragic dimensions (Victoria, 6/15).

Noxious president

Another world mostly unknown to Westerners is seen in Robbie Hart's *Tina Machida in Zimbabwe*. This brief but inspiring doc contrasts Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's noxious "dogs and pigs" metaphor for gays with a young lesbian who eloquently demands her rights. The terror of "family values" surfaces mightily in Machida's grim recounting of being raped by a man paid to do so by her parents (Roxie, 6/16; Victoria, 6/23).

Mugabe also appears in Lionel Bernard's fine French documentary *Homophobia: That Painful Problem* as one of many villains. Not all are individuals; scenes of mass destruction of movie theaters showing a lesbian-themed film (India) and rioters demanding discriminatory laws against gays (France) show the murderous mentality of mobs when confronted with queer imagery (Roxie, 6/17).

"Pleasure is political, and we should seek it," according to Christine Burton, 93-year-old impresario of the aforementioned *Golden Threads*. Burton is a remarkable presence whose tumultuous per-



Juan Carlos Zaldivar, the director of *90 Miles*: coming to America.

sonal history of unrepentant lesbianism spurred her to pursue both the pleasurable and the political, in this case creating an organization for midlife and older dykes. The film focuses on one of the group's annual get-togethers. There are witty recollections of life for World War II-era dykes in New York's secret gay bars: "If you were a woman, you had to have three articles of clothing. So you'd get some big stomping butch who had to wear bloomers! It was so humiliating!" (Roxie, 6/23)

If *Golden Threads* debunks the myth of the humorless lesbian, Paris Poirier's *Pride Divide* reminds us that that myth and others are alive and well. The film, an excellent survey of 50 years of complex relations between gay men and lesbians, exposes an alarming number of clichés still prevalent in the queer community — e.g., that bisexuals "can't be

trusted"; that all gay men are flighty sex fiends; that all lesbians prefer love to sex. The increasingly irrelevant Camille Paglia is the worst of the interviewees, spewing dubious insights such as that lesbians only help male AIDS patients because dykes enjoy seeing men in a position of weakness and dependency (Roxie, 6/23).

Still with us

The era of the "AIDS movie" as a major presence was thought to be over by now, but just as it has in life, AIDS has resurfaced strongly in this year's fest. Several powerful documentaries in this year's fest probe this apparently inexhaustible subject. Jay Corcoran's *Undetectable* follows the lives of six HIV-positive people in Boston as they grapple with the disease and with what too many have perceived as the cure, the

"cocktail." The film tracks its subjects, who represent a wide range of sex, race, and class, over time, showing that spirit can sometimes survive even as humanity is compromised (Roxie, 6/23).

Mary Patierno's *The Most Unknowable Thing* is downright harrowing in its picture of the twists and turns in the life of an HIV-positive man who marries his female chiropractor. Patierno pushes every imaginable button in this disturbing portrait of life's little surprises. Some of the film's intensity may be attributable to the fact that its subject is Patierno's brother (Roxie, 6/20).

AIDS and celebrity are an irresistible mix for trash TV, but Rudi Dolezal and Hannes Rossacher's *Freddie Mercury: The Untold Story* takes a more subdued, almost worshipful view of its subject. Queen-watchers will find this intriguing, partly because it's an authorized work featuring tons of rare footage from performances, home movies, and Mercury's legendary "decadent" parties. Others might object that it's more hagiography than biography. The most enchanting moments are opera diva Montserrat Caballe's reminiscences — with performance scenes — of her duets with the queen of Queen (Roxie, 6/16).

For those who can't get enough of glitzy old queens, there's a 1955 *Liberace* show at the fest that shows His Gaudiness in all his terrifying glory. As others have noted, the scariest thing about Liberace is that he was a top! On the same bill is an unedited psychiatric intake interview dating from the same period as the *Liberace* show. *The Case of Mr. Lin* profiles a musician confounded by his homosexual tendencies who has sought out psychiatric help. Bizarre indeed is the "dialogue" between Lin and shrink Carl Rogers, who mostly simply regurgitates what Lin tells him. There's a subtle and welcome sense that Lin is playing a game with Rogers, and has no intention of changing despite Rogers' rosy postscript about his patient's "progress" (Victoria, 6/16). ▼

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LEATHER SCENE



The winners in Atlanta last Sunday, June 9 were (from left): Int'l Slave Marsha; Int'l. Master Jim; Ms. Leather Pride, Chance; SE Drummer Boy Paul Ferreira; and SE Mr. Drummer Daryl Fox. Paul and Daryl will compete at the Int'l Mr. Drummer competition in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.

Song of the South

by Mister Marcus

Nine leather titles have been newly bestowed upon deserving individuals across the country.

At contests in Atlanta, Georgia, winners earned their sashes as SouthEast Drummer Man and Drummer Boy, International Master and Slave, and Ms. Leather Pride; in Washington, the DC Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests came to pass; and up in Guerneville, contenders walked away with the Russian River Mr. Drummer and Russian River Drummer Boy titles.

Yes folks, Drummer season is upon us and all over the U.S. and Canada, there are contests being held to determine who will compete at the International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests at the Sun Coast Resort (St. Petersburg, Florida).

Since it was impossible to be in three places at once, I went to Atlanta for yet another scintillating

weekend, as only true Southerners can extend. Of course, a lot of the "usual suspects" were there, apologizing for not being at IML. The newly divorced Mark Frazier of Dallas, Texas, emceed the contests both nights — on Friday with outgoing Ms. Leather Pride Samantha Klaar, and on Saturday night with the vivacious Victoria Gayton. Queen Cougar warbled the national anthem, and a parade of colors made everyone cheer.

Five titles were at stake, including Mr. SouthEast Drummer (with contenders Daryl Fox of Atlanta and Donnie Langston, Jr. of Raleigh, North Carolina) and Drummer Boy (Reggie Harris of Atlanta and Paul Ferreira of Raleigh, North Carolina).

Two couples vied for International Master & Slave: Jim Glass and Marsha Montgomery, both of Denton, Texas, and Andrew Lewis and Craig Caruso of

Mitchellville, Maryland. For Ms. Leather Pride, the contenders were Candie Mauldin and Chance Kilgore, both of Atlanta).

It was fun judging with Queen Cougar, Brian Dawson, David LaBriola, Paula Smith (Chief Judge), Dean Ogren, Ritchie Black, Daniel Clark, and Khiki Cavannaro. The interviews, leather image, fantasies (none for the Int'l. Master & Slave contestants or the Drummer Boys), and stage presentations took place on both Friday and Saturday nights.

During the day, on both Saturday and Sunday, leather people took part in numerous workshops and found bargains at a great leather market on the premises of the Ramada Convention Center.

Of course there were a lot of private parties and a couple of dungeon parties, but let's not go there.

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, June 15

At the Women's Bldg., Exiles of SF present SAMS (smart-assed masochists) and Brats. Doors open at 1930; program starts at 2000. Anne Williams will expound at length.

Weekend, June 16-17

Gay pride parades in cities all over the U.S. including Los Angeles and Chicago. In New York on Saturday, it's Leather Pride Night (big, big auction) at the Roxy, 515 West 18th St. On Sunday in New York, it's the 5th Annual Folsom Street East street fair. Ten thousand people showed up last year.

In San Francisco, Boot & Bondage Party at the usual location. Private event for men who are into boots, bondage, oral sex and fun. Hoods encouraged for this party on Saturday night.

At the Eagle, the leather daddies of SF present a beer/soda bust for \$8 with food and entertainment. Always fun with the leather geezers.

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon from 1600-2000 for a mere \$7. Raffle tickets sold to benefit the Immune Enhancement Project. Hot dogs return!

Wednesday, June 20

It's Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules — mandatory clothes check with doors open from 2100-2300. For more info, call 863-HEAD.

Friday, June 22

Leather and Uniform Ball in the Green Room at the War Memorial Bldg. (Van Ness @ McAllister)

and tix are on sale for \$50 now at various outlets. One of the biggest and best uniform/leather gatherings here all year.

Cigar Party at The Sling. Doors open from 22200 to 0300 at 926 Natoma. \$20 cover includes soft drinks, water, coffee, lube & condoms, free coat check, refrigerator & shower.

Sunday, June 24

San Francisco's Pride Parade happens, and the leather contingent marches with Mama, one of the grand marshals. Watch for the Bare Chest Calendar float.

Tuesday, June 26

At 2100 on Channel 9, watch "In the Life" a TV show which includes a big segment on the leather/SM community with interviews of Joseph Bean, Susan Wright and others. It's only nine minutes long, but they say it projects a positive image of our tribe/lifestyle.

Wednesday, June 27

It's Leather Buddies Night at 933 Harrison — don't miss this one. No cologne, no white sneakers (you will be sniffed), and for more info call 863-HEAD.

Saturday, June 30

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. Guest must arrive with you and it's \$10 for members and \$15 for others. BYOB. For invite and location, call 673-0452 or email to: howard@sfo.com.

POLKSTRASSE

Imperials on the move

by Sweet Lips

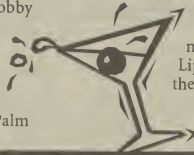
Savvy readers will remember that a few weeks ago, Sweet Lips promised to have some hot news. Here it is: You are all invited to attend a Farewell Party for Emperor IX A.N. Bobby Pace. Come to the Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk St., to bid adieu to our great friend Bobby as he moves to Palm Springs, joining all the Imperial Family that has migrated there.

The party is on Sunday, June 17 (that's Father's Day, remember dear old Dad), 1-6 p.m., with emcee Emperor XVI A.N. Steven Rascher, entertainment by Miss

Gay 1977 Ronnie Lynn, and h'ors d'oeuvres by the talented chef Dennis ("Chips 'n' Whips") Tyler.

Stern is now on the plank at Images on Polk, just next door to the now-closed Giraffe. The Gangway on Larkin St. is still drawing a great crowd of barflies, especially with the help of Johnny Weiss. And of course, Lips is back working at the Club R-V, on Tues., Thurs. and Sat., 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. I'm followed by the ever-popular Ronnie Lynn. Polkstrasse

has learned that adorable Woody of the Cinch fame is available again — and again. Survey says: Little Mikey of Reflections on Polk is looking especially hot these days.



Cocktail Hour



got tish?

DUCAL 2001

Got Tish? Ducal candidates: it's time to get ready for this year's event, which is around again already!

Send cards of good cheer to Greta Grass, who's not doing so well lately. ▼

SFILGFF shorts

◀ page 37

do the 11-hour drive from Melbourne to Sydney in three days, making a pit stop in a small ghost-town where the Greek boy's father met his mom. Framed by their playful affection and super-8 home movies, the young men's journey ends with a visit to the Anglo boy's dying father. *Saturn's Return* deals with the imprint of our fathers on the men we become, and the men we seek out (*Worldly Affairs*, Victoria, 6/23; and *Naughty Little Peepie*, Victoria, 6/17).

An Aussie short in a league of its own is Deb Strutt & Liz Baulch's *Bare*, a funny twist on the classic joke of the peeping Tom, combined with embarrassing truths about what turns us on. Enough sizzle for all sides of the gender divide (*Fun in Boys' & Girls' Shorts*; and *Cooking with Canuks*, Roxie, 6/21).

4pm is a very funny example of why the British do political sex scandals so much better than we Yanks. Again a simple one-night stand spins outrageously out of control. A proper lady politician nabs a very perky younger woman for a wild night — so wild that somebody's undies wind up in a fish bowl. Hell is in the details, which in this case consist of a loaded pistol, some compromising Polaroids, and a misplaced house key (*Fun in Girls' Shorts*, Castro, 6/16 & 24).

Fluid tales

Patrick McGuinn's *Soda Pop* teaches us that no activity between two guys is entirely innocent, as young Jamie figures out how to get really close to a hunky foreign exchange student while under the

baleful watch of his redneck neighbors. Steve Salinaro's *Shooting Blanks* is an insanely funny rant between two brothers about just who gets to pass along the family DNA (*Fun in Boys' Shorts*).

Stalking Mike Hawke is director Lisa Ganser's fast, funny tale of a dyke obsessed by a well-dressed man. Cassandra Nicolaou follows an unseen woman's *Interviews with My Next Girlfriend* to the pinnacle or nadir of Canadian humor, a good idea that goes slightly awry due to a desire to touch too many bases (*Fun in Girls' Shorts*).



From Coming to Terms

Youthful passion is well-served by two shorts that offer up gloomy takes on coming out. In Shawn Postoff's *Coming to Terms*, a young man's desire to have a

heart-to-heart talk with his parents is subverted by his failure to appreciate just how far the gap between them is. The walls of Damian's college dorm room seem to move in on him as his phone calls to Mom and Dad take on an increasingly desperate tone (*Gay Youth Shorts*, Roxie, 6/15). Ginny Wong's Hong Kong-based *Port* reveals an exuberantly naive quality about the love triangle of three young Chinese men. *Port* also confirms reports of Hong Kong men's penchant for t-room sex (*Everything In Between*, Victoria, 6/21; and *Worldly Affairs*).

Two very different shorts flesh out the queer siblings program *My Brother, My Sister* (Roxie, 6/23). Sharon Ferranti's *A Thousand Miles* gives a seldom-seen credibility to the world of fundamentalist religion as, against her better judgment and the advice of her lover, a sister returns home to rescue her closeted brother from the clutches of their fanatically obsessed mother. Ferranti resists the urge to paint a simplistic picture of either neurotic family ties or this brand of Christianity. On the same program, *Cruising Normal* provides a wry look at a brother/sister reunion during an absurdly tacky cruise to the Bahamas.

Three programs look interesting even though space doesn't permit details. *Rebel Grrrls!* (Victoria, 6/22) promises an entertaining sojourn through the world of punk girl bands and multigendered homocore youth groups. *Trance Romance* (Herbst, 6/18) picks up where the recent Sex Workers Festival left off in examining the burgeoning tranny scene. And the increasingly arbitrary and always thin line between male and female is examined in *Transformations* (Victoria, 6/21). ▼

about the whole contest. Nobody could calm him down. What a lousy way to run a business! Does this remind you of anyone in San Francisco who has "fits" on occasion?

Well, when the scores were counted, after numerous people had been thanked, special awards given out, and the short stepping down speeches given, the judges' decision was announced: South-East Drummer man is Daryl Fox of Atlanta, and the South-East Drummer Boy is Paul Ferreira.

The delightful Chance Claar was named Ms. Leather Pride, and the heterosexual couple, Master Jim and Slave Marsha, are the International Master and Slave. It was a joyous occasion.

The basket auction for the winners' travel fund was over \$3,000. In October, Daryl and Paul will advance to the International Drummer competition in St. Petersburg, Florida.

In Washington, despite the tawdry conduct of the management, the DC Drummer and Drummer Boy competition went on, and Gary Vandventer emerged as DC Drummer Man, with Jake Beck named the Drummer Boy. They will advance to the regional Mid-Atlantic Drummer competition in Baltimore in July.

At my deadline, no results were received by the producer(s) of the Russian River Drummer competition, but then, you know Jake. ▼

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

I mentioned earlier that Mark Frazier was newly-divorced, due to conduct unbecoming a non-leather title-holder he was "involved" with until last weekend. I guess it's okay to be unfaithful — unless you get caught!

And speaking of conduct unbecoming a non-leather title-holder, all of Washington, DC's leather community in attendance at the DC Drummer and Drummer Boy contests at the DC Eagle on Saturday were shocked and disgusted by a person of "authority" at the DC Eagle who was screaming, ranting and raving

BAR TALK



photo by Steven Underhill

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PARTING GLANCES

Sat 4/28, "Red Grill" 8'ish
Saw you in the lounge, then dining room, me at corner table with 2 friends. Couldn't take my eyes off you. Would love to make you smile again. ☎ 71268

"Castro Community T-Shirt"
Badlands Fri. 4/27, AM in white sleeveless t-shirt wanted to talk. Was it wishful thinking, or did you want to talk to me too? I'm what you've been wanting. ☎ 71269

5/6 Starbucks@ Church & Market
11:30am, we were buying drinks, too shy to talk. You, cute Asian with silver ring on right hand. Me: White with yellow t-shirt, exchanged glances even after I left. Call. ☎ 71270

•Jeremy, Sunday April 29•
Enjoyed talking with you at "Pasta Pomodoro". I was too shy to ask for your number. Give me a second chance? ☎ 71271

Ned! "Sundance Saloon" May 6th
Hello Ned, tried to build-up enough courage to ask you to dance but you left early. Very goodlooking, masculine, nice guy here. Would love to hear from you. ☎ 71272

'Jason M.' From 'Art C.'
Sorry, I missed you but thanks for stopping by Weds. 4/25. You were cut off before you left your ph#. Please try again. Love to see you and catch-up. ☎ 71273

~Steamworks Sun 5-6~
You tall Asian, glasses. Me tad shorter, close cropped hair, mustache. Kissed in back. I was oral. Smiled at each other later. Can we do it again? ☎ 71301

N Judah @ Church Weekends 8am
You: AM departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We often smile & wave. Would you like to meet for coffee? ☎ 71302

N Judah @ Church St. Weekdays 8am
You: am departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We used to smile & wave often. Would like to meet sometime? ☎ 71321

Edge-Mem Day Sun-2 Men W/Go-Ts
Me: Goatee/blue eyes. I followed you to your car; you tooted and drove off; you should have stopped. Somebody should have said something. Call! ☎ 71336

•Rockridge, Friday, May 25•
Our eyes met several times outside Market Hall. You: Asian man, table alone, lap top. Me: White man, chair (no table). Too shy to stop and talk. Can we meet? ☎ 71337

~5/26-Chevy's 7:00pm~
You shaved head, tattoos, and leather coat. You were with two friends. Me gray hair and beard glasses, with friend at counter. Too stupid to speak. Please call me. ☎ 71338

"Attn: Paul From Sacramento"
Fri. 5/25 you baseball cap with friend Steve/BMW-I was at Starbucks Saturday ten A.M. Please-call. It's worth another try. ☎ 71355

"N'Touch Friday June 1st"
Me: White male from Nob Hill in SF. You from Berkeley with friends from SF (White) and LA (Asian) if still interested please call. ☎ 71356

Dolores Prk & Bay To Breakers!
2 days in a row, I couldn't take my eyes off you! You: yellow shorts (5/19) then red shorts (5/20). Me: tall, glasses, baseball cap. Let's finally talk. ☎ 71322

Commonwealth Club- 'Alexander'
The Great on 5/17. You admired my turquoise ring and I admired you. Had a nice talk and would like to talk more w/ dinner or movie. ☎ 71320

•Monday, June 4th, 11:00A.M.~
Aboard 38 Geary bus cly bound at Arguello. Young, tall, Black Adonis- red checked shirt, jeans. You said: "Don't I know you?" My mouth said "I don't think so," but my heart said "WOW!" Me: blonde in black Levi's and mirror shades. Please answer ad, we'll both be glad you did. -Chris ☎ 71354

~Andronics (Irving), Sunday 6/3~
We talked at cashier. You: attractive blonde, short hair, glasses, nice legs/tan, rubbing calf, buying apples, water. Me: white/blue t-shirt/short. Would love to give you awesome massage! ☎ 71357

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

~That Caribbean Touch!~
Spanish man raised in the Spanish Caribbean seeks other GM for sex and fun. I am a top, 5'8", 155#, well endowed, salt and pepper hair, into yoga and jogging. Very political progressive avid reader, financially independent, good cook and love to travel. Into GWM as well as Latin Americans and Europeans. HIV-, but very HIV+ sensitive. ☎ 71274

•Mulatto Guy Intelligent•
Educated, real good looking, seeks guys for a relationship for fun and good times. ☎ 71275

VGL Latino "Boy" ISO Hot "Daddy!"
Me: 5'7", 135#, HIV+, goatee, fun and romantic. You: GWM, 40-55, goodlooking, financially secure. Dad type ISO. Please Call! ☎ 71276

POZ GBM ISO Vers GWM Bottom
"6ft, 180lbs. ISO affectionate/ submissive GWM/GLM. Prefer slim, short, small build and smooth." ☎ 71277

"Goodlooking Masculine Rugged!"
Man looking for another for deep friendship and romance. I am good hearted, intelligent, N/S, N/D, bottom. I like rugged hairy tops with good hearts and nice cock. ☎ 71278

~~~~~Suck Buddy~~~~~
Uncut GWM 5'-10", 165#, 7", large balls. HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO regular suck buddy, White, Latino, Asian, North Bay a plus. ☎ 71279

GWM Seeks Goodlooking Male For...
Friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 41, slim trim and fit. Like the outdoors, quiet, romantic evenings at home, loving one another and building a life together. "Let's make it happen!" ☎ 71280

•Friends, Friends, Friends, Help!
Partner & friends have all passed. Looking for buddies to do things with. Can be into many different things. Need someone to share time with. ☎ 71281

"Italian Guys I Am Looking!"
For Italian men who are hung or good looking or just plain Italian guys for sex, fun or relationship. ☎ 71282

•Long Big Clean & Uncut•
Available for White butt. Only. I'm 36yrs old. 5'7", long brown hair, lean, sexy and horny. All calls will be returned. ☎ 71303

"Ideal Match..."
For Scorpio are Pisces. GWM late 40, well educated, honest, kind, pisces, bottom is waiting for you, scorpio. Let's make our life happiest in the world; cause LOVE is EVERYTHING!! ☎ 71304

Live In Europe
With attractive, masculine professional. You are younger, trim, fun loving guy looking for adventure and hot times. ☎ 71305

34 White Bottom ISO Darkest Top
5'11", 195. Very muscular and masculine seeking top who likes to be very dominant. Role playing etc is a big plus! ☎ 71306

"Young Boy!"
You: Over 60, real gentleman, with tender fingers. Me: young, shy boy, like massage, sport, history. ☎ 71307

Palo Alto GAM 45 5'11" 185 36w
ISO a friend under 46 with average cock for me to suck who recip... on a reg basis. Have car will come to you. ☎ 71308

I'm 29yrs. "Latino!"
29w, 311, 145wt, 5'7"ht. HIV+. You bwn 25-45 hairy chest & legs in good shape and well off. ☎ 71309

~~~~~Cancer Survivor!~~~~~
36, 6', 180, brbr attractive, well-adjusted, colon cancer surviving (ileostomy), orally fixated gym going GWM with great attitude for life. Seek attractive, well-adjusted WM for dating. ☎ 71310

"I Want You The Right Way!"
GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips + +. ☎ 71311

ISO HIV+ Little Brother 38yr
175# 6'2" looking for skinny White boy for rough housing & tenderness. No drugs, smoke ok. ☎ 71323

6'4" Very Attractive Thin Model
Boy ISO smart. Attractive. Stylish. Straight Acting boys. 18-25. Me, HIV-, fun, Artist, straight acting, hung. Looking for versatile/bottom for some fun. I like White boys. No loco's. ☎ 71324

~Life Is A Banquet~
GBM HIV- lean masc toned, eager to explore life, you GM 25-40 relationship inclined. Likes music, gym, conversation, theatre, deep kissing, versatile. I'm no chicken but this bird is still succulent. Let the feast begin. ☎ 71325

HIV+ Bottom Seeks SF Top
52, 5'6", 140 with s/b, brn eyes. Honest, grounded w/sense of humor about life. Open to any relationship. Looking for good communicator. Prefer 40-58 taller HIV+ in-shape. ☎ 71326

~I'm Seeking Gigantic Nipples!~
Muscular 42 seeks a smooth muscular guy with huge protruding nipples to service on a regular basis. I know how to please. Pleas be serious. "No Games!" ☎ 71339

"Attention John!"- Asian
You responded to my add #71279, "Suck Buddy" of the Bar system cut your message off but you could give me your phone number. Call again. ☎ 71340

•Healthy HIV+ Seeks Same•
GWM, 39, 5'11", 165#, masculine, in shape seeks non-smoking slim/fit younger guy. I enjoy reading, movies, theatre, hiking, kayaking, Rem, Stine, Chili Peppers. "You...?" ☎ 71341

******Affectionate Older Men******
WLM 45, 6'10lbs. ISO men over 50 who enjoy lots of holding, kissing and oral pleasure! Bearded, mustache, non-shaved, rustic-look, liberal A+. Smoking. It drink ok but no drugs or gay scene. ☎ 71342

~Class Act 4 Same~
GL professional, 50's, tall, well proportioned, bright, humorous, playful, enjoys cooking, theatre and Giants, a romantic, versatile, seeks man of quality for dating and LTR. Life is to share. ☎ 71358

"Want To Practice Your Spanish?"
Latin male seeks GWM under 45 who is active and in shape. No shaved heads, tats, piercings. Me 36yo, 5'8", 155#, hb/bn, clean-cut, HIV+, prof, athletic runner, cyclist. ☎ 71359

•35 GAM Seeking LTR•
5'8", 160, looking for professional GWM under 43 for fun or more. If interested, call please. ☎ 71360

'Seeking Asian Guy To Date'
Muscular GWM, 43 is wishing to date a respectable smooth, in shape Asian guy. Please be responsible, reliable and relationship oriented. No flakes!! ☎ 71361

"Top, Btm, Oral... It's All Good!"
Me: 6', 180lbs, 38, blond, blue. You: Asian, Latino, Mulatto, slim to slight build, 20's-30's. I enjoy volleyball, beaches, movies. Not afraid of casual sex if there's chemistry. ☎ 71362

Young Handsome Russian.
Is looking for a cute intelligent European or American boy in his 20's or 30's, to share my body and life. You will not be disappointed. ☎ 71363

If Your Looking 4 Fun & Sex, I'm 4 U
OLGM. 37yrs. 5'8", 155#, brw. skn. masculine, looking for- GWM or LM, under 40yrs, versatile, slim, same proportion if possible. Call now! ☎ 71364

~Fuck Buddies!!!!~
Hot, masculine, muscular Italian top wants to meet a masculine, inshape, hungry, eager-to-please bottom to fuck on a regular basis. Any race, under 45. ☎ 71365

BAR TALK

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Kyle, Lush Lounge, Sunday 5/27 Memorial Day weekend. I'm the guy you told your troubles to. Tried to get you a cab, but you walked home alone. Hope all is well. Let me know. ☎ 71366

SEEKING ADVENTURE

"ISO Tit Pigs!!!"

Hungry to suck on my big beautiful nips, masculine, dominant dad 52yo solid tight muscular body. Shaved head, tats, defined hairy chest w big nips. Also ISO men who are huge, not just big tits. ☎ 71283

Milkman Lookin For Good Gumbo!
If you're a "toothless tiger" and can deep-throat a big head while "gummin'" the base of a thick shaft, I'm your man. 6', 170, 43, laid-back man. Long chew sessions a real turn-on. ☎ 71284

"Al" SF, 4-22-01

Al of SF. You responded to my ad #71131, "Older Black Men" on 4/22. Your phone number was incomplete. Please call again. ☎ 71285

Hairy Top GBI WM Wanted!

Me: 150# slim hairless GWM mid 40 7" cut into butt, dick. Play open to most role clothing WS & other kink. ☎ 71286

Wanted: "Hung Guys!"

I am looking for guys who are hung "9" inches or larger for a fun time with me. I am hung "9" so give me a call. ☎ 71287

"Striptease: Lost Art?"

SF connoisseur, seeks only cut Caucasian or Hispanic masculine star, 20-32, mid-twenties preferred. Impressive face and physique, charisma and presentation skills required. Safe, confidential fun! ☎ 71288

"Hot, Horny, Asian Into Sex!"

I'm lots of fun, high energy. 5'7", 129lbs with lean, tanned build. Into exploring different scenes. Slender guys big plus! Age/race not important. ☎ 71289

Attention Hairy Guys!...

U turn me on! 42yo. Hot bottom wants to service your needs & make you feel good! HIV- only! Lv msg. ☎ 71290

Voyeur!

50's gay couple seeks third to watch. ☎ 71292

Wanted: Hung Men For Servicing
Goodlooking White guy 40, 188, with dark brown hair, mustache, smooth body, and blue eyes seeks well-endowed men for sucking. Only men between 20-45 need apply. All nationalities welcome. ☎ 71291

I'm A Butt Banger, 47 And Hung
Looking for masculine, experienced men who like it from behind (I use the safe and withdrawal method). Over 40 and husky build a plus. East Bay. ☎ 71312

Feed Boy Ur Daddick 4 Smooth Job
WM, 45/6/170. baldbuzz, bearded digs orally servicer! verbal, booted leather/uniform daddystud w thick-dick. In gear, ukilback or fuckface, longslowdeep. HIV- ub2, no drugs. Options: titteglows, gars, reds, split, cuffs? ☎ 71313

Bubble Butt Bottom Wanted
By WM, 49, 6', 170lbs, top, great shape. Be slim to muscular, like to get rimmed & fucked, between 30-50. Prefer Asian, HIV+ only. No fats or fems. ☎ 71314

Your Personal Cocksucker!

Talented hungry attractive 37yo guy seeks laid back hung 24 to 44yo with slim to medium build to suck off regularly. I'm HIV+ healthy. Serious only please. ☎ 71315

Touch Stoke Squeeze Shoot

Is your favorite part of a massage "getting off"? I specialize in concentrating on your mid-section w/ intense attention to your cock and balls w/ my mouth and hands. Oiled up & keeping you on the edge of cumming 55, clean/healthy ub2. No \$. No reciprocation. Just relax and enjoy. ☎ 71327

~Cock And Balls Sucked!~

You kickback. I will service, even if your cut/hung, thick. Possible we both like it. Could become weekly. Me GWM, healthy, HIV negative. Love to worship cock! ☎ 71347

Rough-Fuck Boyhole Wanted!!!!

WM 40 145 HIV+ top. Lean, not beefy, prefer same. Big thick cock, likes hurting holes! You: Fit clean poz small-framed nonhairy total bottom 25-45 craving fast frequent deep brutal fucking. ☎ 71349

Just Sex!

Nice SWM, 43/180/6', handsome, in-shape, hairy, br/br, clean, HIV- Neg, & horny, ISO WM, attractive, clean, hung, & HIV- Neg for blow/rim regularly. My place in SF. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71348

This Boy Needs Some Lovin!
GWM 42, 180#, romantic, uncult, hairy seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Extremely hairy guys please! ☎ 71330

"Oral Master Seeks Oral Slave!"
Young looking-acting mid 70's master-daddy seeks a gdlk/g 18-45 HIV-slave or son for ongoing light S&M, B/D safe. No anal scenes. ☎ 71331

Wear A Toolbelt To Work?

Tall 28yo guy, seeks goodlooking, in-shape, straight/Bi Construction worker, who will let me play with his big tool and show me what he can do with it. ☎ 71332

Att GWM 50 HIV+ Oralist ISO HRD
I kneel down and worship. You watch your desire disappear into my soft, wet darkness. Sensual/Slow/ Sensitive nips! ☎ 71343

~Mature Handsome Xpert Sucker~
Licking, sniffing, -deep throat action. Ass ball crotch wiping- drooling. Fuck my stache/ go-t mouth! Hairy-musc 5'7", 160#, 50's. Tan body, hungry mouth-throat! Facial hair daddies A+. ☎ 71344

Stocky, Hefty, Chubby, Fat

GBM, 48yo, 5'11", 250lbs. Seeks big men for versatile, uninhibited sexual pleasure. Big, hefty men only. Discretion required. ☎ 71328

"Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy!"

GWM, 42, 180# seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. Please be hairy! ☎ 71329

Play With My Ass!

I'm 6'4" 195lbs with 9" cut dick. Enjoy being fucked by small men with big cocks. Latino? Asian? Bring it over! ☎ 71345

"2Big!". Uncut

Looking for another relatives for good sex afternoons 7 inches or none-masculine and good shape. ☎ 71346

"Who Are You?"

"Sexual desire is complicated enough w/out having to be linked to anything else as a condition for phenomenological analysis." Human being seeks same; interested in sex, among other things. ☎ 71350

"Just Shut Up And Ride!"

WM 36, 5'10" 195lb blond/blue muscle hunk, want good looking masculine men to screw me or be screwed, anytime. ☎ 71369

~JO Adventure!~

Happy, dedicated JO addict seeks same to unabashedly share/explore, prolonged edging far-out fantasizing, and orgasms. Physical contact unnecessary. Toys, any age ok. Extended mind-blowing. ☎ 71351

"Asian Guys!!"

Under 50, wanted by trim, fit, HIV+ White build dice age 48, top, safe, sane, smart, 6' 162lbs. You're trim, fit too. ☎ 71352

"ISO Senior Blacks!!!"

GWM 70 seeks Black seniors 60 to 85 for great sex. I'm 6' 170# 7"uncut any scene. Disabled o.k. Heavies A+. ☎ 71367

Weightlifting Nude

Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Strip down, work-out. Am 48, 5'9", 190. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71368

Anonymous Deep Throat Head!!

Bi WM HIV- 40's dominant horny masculine likes getting off down an expert deep throat in dark private places if your HIV- submissive in shape and hungry.

~Worship It Uncut?~

Spend hours on it with your mouth, hands, and ?? GWM 58, 5'10", 200lbs, muscular. Any age, race, and body type, as long as you're really into it. ☎ 71371

Shy? Working Out Your Body?

Do you like looking at yourself? Feeling yourself? "Good!" Would you like to show it off as I watch & encourage you? Compliment you? Me: handsome Latin 40, house in Sonoma County. ☎ 71372

~Young Cute European Bottom~

Is looking for a demanding attractive top or tops to be fully trained anyway he or his friends wish. Be under 40yo. You will not be disappointed. ☎ 71373

"Seeking Verbal Forceful Top!"

I am a VGL GBM, light bottom, 5'11", 170lbs, smooth, swimmers bld. Seeking verbal dominant top. Poss. WS. Please be over 8.5", in-shape. Hairy & husky A+. Please no issues. Long fun only. Out only in S.F. ☎ 71374

FETISHES

"Daytime Asshole-Eater!"

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71297

Shaved Upper Bodies

Tall shaved WHM wishes to video tape large persons of any race or gender who have smooth chests and shaved pits. ☎ 71293

"Seeking Guy With Piss Load!"

You good hose, any race, HIV-neg. I'm 6', 155, HIV-neg, early 50's, East Bay, thirsty, have WS tapes and camcorder. ☎ 71294

~Seeking Discipline!~

WM, generous, seeks younger defined strict yet understanding WM for progressive bi-monthly corporal punishment sessions including whipping, humiliation & foot worship. ☎ 71295

Beat This Man...

This queer matured pervert requires a beating periodically. Good for younger fit sadist. Please inquire! ☎ 71296

[Always Thirsty]

50yo HIV- piss dad seeks healthy HIV-, kichback too with full bladder and balls that need regular draining pissy underwar A+, willing to train. ☎ 71298

Big Men!!

WLM 45, 6', 160lbs. I'm attracted to very heavyset men who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure. Gainers, non-exercisers, kissers, cuddlers A+. Not into gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71299

GBM 55 HIV+ Bottom 5'10"/200lbs

Sks GWM tops into vaseline-oil Slaze. Enjoy my oil massage, video, foot-body worship, sucked my butt. Open minded to d-long sessions, undressed by me. ☎ 71316

Asshole Rimmer Insatiable

Wanted by WM, 49, 6', top, exc. shape. Be 25-50 old, love to rim for hours, in-shape, no fats. Prefer Black, Asian, HIV+ only, regular basis. ☎ 71317

Seeks Nipple Pig Wkout Buddy!!

I'm 46yr. old aggressive bottom "nipple" bear with nice erect nipples! I'm stocky/200# b/m/bm, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercing, smoke! ISO super masc, muscular dominate "bear daddy" nip-plg for serious nipple wkouts & growth in mind! Smokers A+ please call! ☎ 71318

"Spiritually Focused Domination"

Consciousness explores the bondage, intense sensual stimulation, discipline and/or abasement, guided by tantric yogi Oakland WM 54. Ideally you're fit, smart, complex, capable of commitment. ☎ 71319

"Let's F*ck..... And!"

Have a sex orgy, good time, all night long. Looking to meet up with handsome, built well-defined guys who like having group sex with others. You: No attitude or hang-ups. Me: Fine/toned & extremely built, GBM. Please be open minded and non racially impacted. ☎ 71333

ISO Experienced Vacuum Pumper!

Beginner vacuum pumper needs an experienced pumper to be my mentor. Mature caucasian gentleman HIV- 5'9", 150#, 7"cut. ☎ 71353

GWM 46 To Meet Play With GM

into barefeet and oral. Me: 5'9", 180 med bld masc, looks, nice feet, bottom or top you similar. Nice feet. ☎ 71375

"Daytime Asshole-Eater!"

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71376

Young Slave Boy For Dog Training

This cute 27 y.o. boy is looking for a master under 40yo. to be fully dog trained in his satisfaction. The boy will yield any submission to make a perfect doggy. ☎ 71377

COUPLES

"Looking For Threes, Four Way Action"

If you're a couple looking for another HOT, masculine male who knows how to use his cock, give me a call. I'm 6', 185lbs, GBM, 9". You guys won't be disappointed. Looking to have a good time. Masculine and muscular men only. ☎ 71300

OTHERS

~Bride The Gap!~

GF seeks foreign gentleman professional for mutually beneficial arrangement. Honesty, credibility communication important! ☎ 71334

~~~~~MEN!!!!~~~~~

Let's have the hottest sex extravaganza Party in the country. "It's hot and all fine guys are out!" Looking for interesting guys who like doing such a thing. Have a very open mind horny and willing to go long sessions. A good way to get rid of fuckin stress. Muscular & masculine a must. No fats or fems. ☎ 71335

Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

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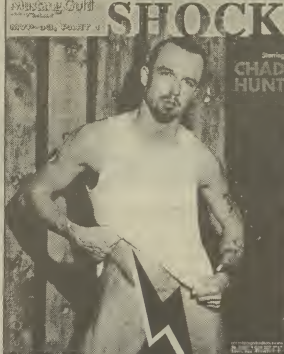
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Have boa, will travel

Julie Wilson to play Plush Room

by Jim Van Buskirk

I was afraid I'd missed your call," was Julie Wilson's warm way of answering my scheduled phone interview. With that, we were off on a wild 45-minute conversation about just about everything, including Julie Wilson in *Dixieland*, the new show she's bringing to the Plush Room June 19 to July 1.

"I'm just blessed," Wilson confessed, conveying vivaciousness, vitality and *joie de vivre*. Where does she get her energy? "I was just born with it. I got fabulous genes from my mother, and strong genes from my Dad.

"You can't plan," said the veteran song stylist. "I'm like a little dinghy going along wherever the waves take it." The waves have taken Wilson some wonderful places. Growing up during the Great Depression in a family of Midwestern homesteaders, the tomboy with dreams of stardom left Omaha University at the



Julie Wilson in *Dixieland*

chance to join Earl Carroll's *Vanities*. This led to the chorus line of the Latin Quarter, and then the Copacabana. After a European Copa USO tour and dates in Miami and Hollywood, she was lured back to New York, where she replaced Lisa Kirk as Bianca on Broadway in Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*. When the play moved to London in 1951, Wilson moved with it, remaining to appear in such shows as *South Pacific* and *Bells Are Ringing*. Wilson returned to Broadway in 1955, appearing in *Kismet*, and then toured in *Show Boat*, *Panama Hattie*, *Silk Stockings* and *Hi Fidelity*.

Despite the theatrical roles, the movies like *The Strange One* and *This Could Be the Night*, and her many recordings, Wilson is best known for what she's been doing deliciously for decades, crooning in clubs. She has honed her talent for singing naughty, torchy songs into an act that is the epitome of cabaret. Watching her work is like taking a class in the art form. She is by turns ironic, seductive, sexy, saucy, serious, and always sensational.

Niche work

"Cabaret is like life," she said, "there are no answers." She stressed that honesty is the most important quality, quickly followed by a sense of humor. Wilson has both, in spades. Her audiences marvel at how much fun she seems to be having. Known for

her relentless support of her "kids," Wilson advises up-and-coming cabaret performers, "There's a niche for everyone. If you love what you're doing, you're going to spread it to your audience."

Why *Dixieland*? These are songs that Wilson grew up listening to on the radio, songs she heard in clubs in the Village in the '40s, songs she's wanted to do for a very long time. Wilson was invited to perform a number with the Smith Street Society Jazz Band on Jim Lowe's radio show (WVJN). She enjoyed it so much that she and her pianist and musical director, Mark Hummel, began working with some of the same musicians and came up with *Julie Wilson in Dixieland*, which she performed at the Algonquin Hotel's venerable Oak Room. Wilson received rave reviews from critics like Stephen Holden, whose *New York Times* review asserted that Wilson's "gravely, deeply lived-in contralto is well-suited to her material."

Along with her musicians, Wilson is bringing five of her signature feather boas, which she's decided are essential to her interpretation of down-and-dirty numbers and torch songs like "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans," "Find Out What They Like and How They Like It," "Give It to 'em Just that Way" and "Hardhearted Hannah (the Vamp of Savannah)."

Before she arrives in SF, Wilson will be in Atlanta performing her show *Cole Porter and Friends*, and then in Paris to spend a few days with her son Holt McCallany, a prolific actor who's currently making a film in England.

When we finally hung up, I was exhilarated, if not exhausted, by this 77-year-old's exuberance, generosity and sincerity. I can't wait to watch her transform the Plush Room into a New Orleans jazz club at Mardi Gras. I wonder what she'll do with the boas. ▽

Julie Wilson in *Dixieland* plays the Plush Room from June 19-July 1. For tickets (\$30), call (415) 885-2800.

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Sordid Olivia

Singer-actress Olivia Newton-John on lesbian rumors and 'Sordid Lives'

by Bradley David

In the new movie *Sordid Lives*, opening Friday at the Lumiere, Olivia Newton-John portrays Bitsy Mae Harling, a honky-tonk singer and ex-convict who may or may not have had a lesbian affair with the woman whose scandalous death the movie revolves around.

In a recent phone interview, Newton-John explained how she landed the role. She had long known the movie's writer-director, Texas native Del Shores, having met through Newton-John's sister Rona, an actress and writer who had become friends with Shores after meeting him in an acting class.

"He's so brilliant," Newton-John said. "He is one of my sister's best friends, so I'd known Del for a long time and had been to see his plays."

After seeing *Sordid Lives* on stage, Newton-John expressed interest in appearing in a movie version.

"I said to Del, kind of in jest, 'If you ever think of a girl to do the singer's part, think of me,'" she remembered. "Lo and behold, he got the money together to make the movie and called me and said, 'Well, I've got it together — do you want to do it?' I was very nervous about it, but I said yes."

She was concerned about the Texas accent, but Shores worked with her on it and gave her a tape to listen to.

There was also the character's perceived lesbianism, which Newton-John knew would dredge up old rumors about her own sexuality. She says she thinks the mistaken notion that she is a lesbian was born in the 1970s when she sang her hit song "I Honestly Love You" on *The Tonight Show*. When the show's legendary host Johnny Carson asked her if she had more girlfriends or boyfriends, she answered "girlfriends" — meaning "female friends," not "lovers" — eliciting a raised eyebrow from Carson.

"The rumor kept coming back to me, and I kept wondering, 'Why are they saying this about me?'" she said. "That's the only thing that we could ever put our finger on. As if anyone would ever say anything like that on *The Tonight Show*! Let alone me, for crying out loud!"

Swap meet

Then there was the more obscure rumor that Newton-John's former husband, Matt Lattanzi, was also gay, and that the couple was involved in a unique spouse-swapping relationship with actor Christopher Atkins and his wife.

"How convoluted and horrible is that?" screamed Newton-John with laughter when told of the Atkins rumor. "I've never heard that one. We were friends — yes, very good friends, and our children were friends, and we used to go on camping trips together, just like any normal couples do. Funny, isn't it? They've gotta say something about you. But that's why I don't really ever believe anything I hear."

Newton-John said the Bitsy Mae Harling character was based



Olivia Newton-John in *Sordid Lives*

on an actual person from Shores' past.

"He's not saying who it is because he doesn't want to upset that person," she laughed.

As for her singing in the movie (a soundtrack is expected to be released soon), she said she didn't try too hard to sound like a true Texan.

"I think when you sing, there's a kind of universal singing language, so I just kind of sang with my voice," she said. "I play the guitar [in the movie], which I don't do very well, but it didn't matter for this part because it was Bitsy Mae — it wasn't me — so that was fun."

Since her stellar recording career has included a few country albums, she felt comfortable with the genre.

"That wasn't new for me, but what was new for me was singing those hymns," she said. "I didn't know those hymns. Del grew up with them in church, but they were all new to me."

She also got to trash it up with heavy make-up, a short bleach-blond hairdo and a tattoo.

"I had a blast," she said. "I had so much fun making this film. I loved working with Beau Bridges and Delta [Burke] and everyone. They're so professional and so good."

She also enjoyed working with Texas-based character actor Leslie Jordan, who portrays the cross-dressing "Brother Boy."

"He's fabulous — what a wonderful actor he is," she said.

Newton-John just returned from her native Australia, where she made another film with Shores. Entitled *The Wilde Girls*, the movie will appear on Showtime next year and will mark the debut of Newton-John's 15-year-old daughter Chloe.

Busier than ever, Newton-John will soon be releasing a box set encapsulating her storied singing career, and also plans to begin writing an autobiography, which will include the story of her triumph over breast cancer.

"This is my 30th year in the business — 30 years since I had my first hit record, which I can't believe," she said. "I'm so lucky I'm even still around." ▼

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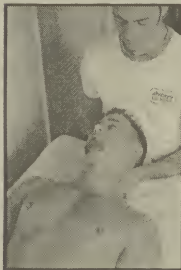
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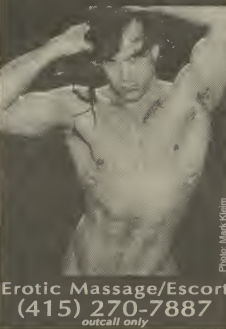
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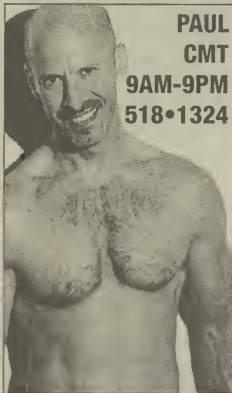
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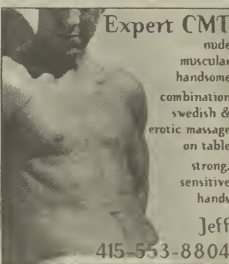
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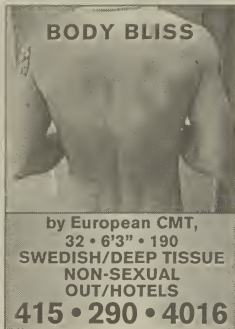
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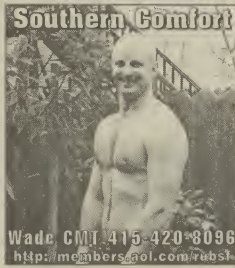
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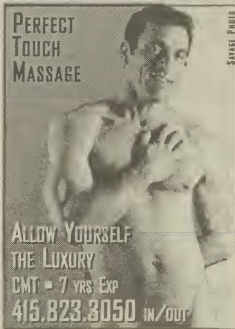
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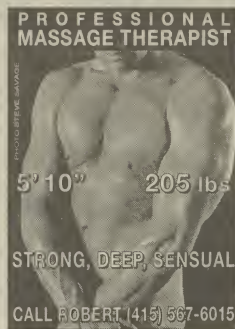
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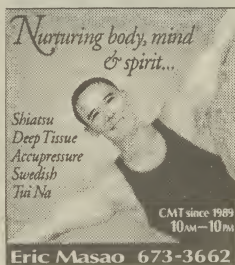
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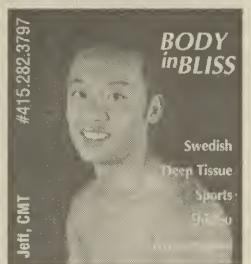
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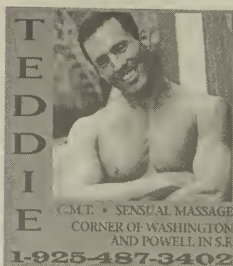
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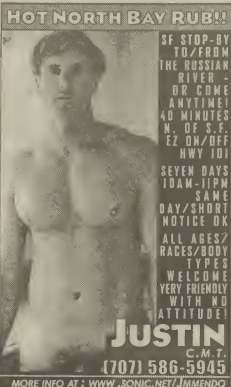
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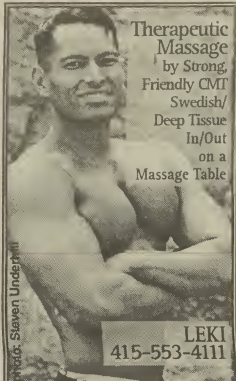
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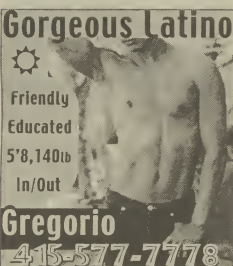
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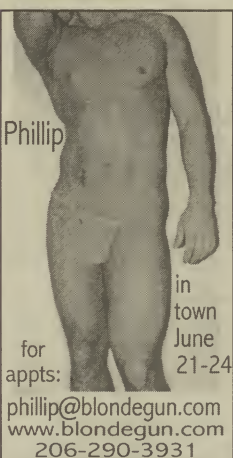
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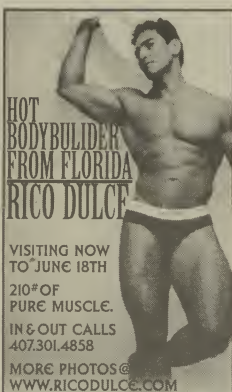
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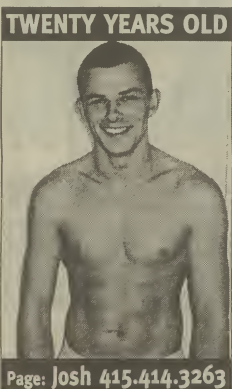
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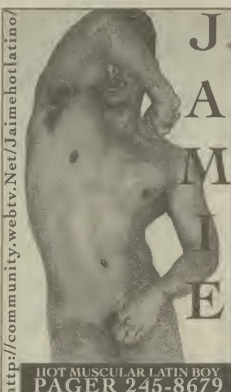
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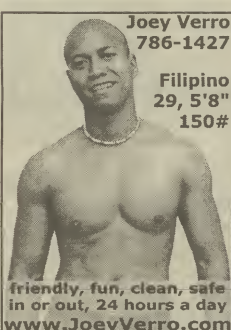
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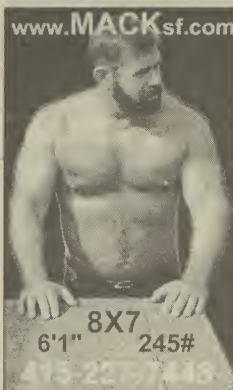
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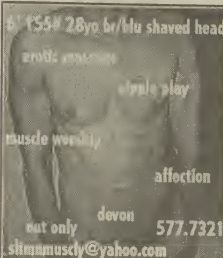
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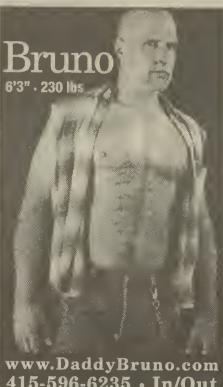
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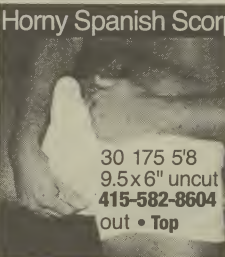
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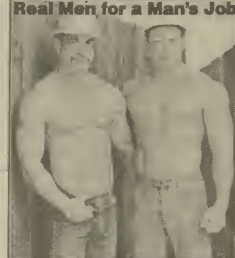
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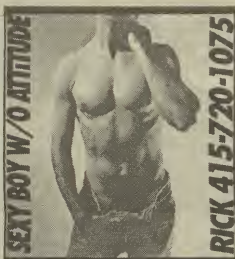
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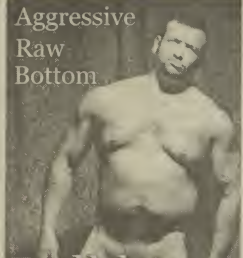
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